Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

United States Agricultural Information Network / International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists Joint Conference, April 3-5, 1997, Tucson, Arizona
The Information Frontier: Linking People and Resources in a Changing World

by Mary Cassner,
Dana W. R. Boden,
and Robin McBride
Subject Specialist/Liaison Librarians
C. Y. Thompson Library
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Thanks to Lillian Mesner, University of Kentucky, and Margaret Merrill, Virginia Tech, for their input regarding the Concurrent Interest Group Panel Presentations.

Photographs by Joseph N. Swab, *ALIN* Editor, NAL
(unless otherwise indicated).

The first ever United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) / International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) Joint Conference and Pre-Conference Workshops were held in Tucson, Arizona, April 2-5, 1997. The conference theme was "The Information Frontier: Linking People and Resources in a Changing World." Conference attendance numbered close to 200 persons, representing over 35 countries, giving the conference a true international flavor. U.S. participants included representation from the National Agricultural Library, land-grant institutions, corporations, other libraries, information providers, and vendors.

Pre-Conference Activities

The Executive Board of IAALD and the USAIN Executive Council each held meetings before the official Conference start. Attendees arriving prior to the official conference opening ceremonies on Thursday had the option of attending a variety of pre-conference workshops. On Wednesday, "Living in the Learning Organization: Change Support and Process Improvement" discussed the concept and practical use of the Learning Organization. Shelley Phipps and Carrie Russell from the University of Arizona served as facilitators for the workshop.

Half-day pre-conference workshops and their facilitators included: "Introduction to the Internet and World Wide Web" and "Advanced Internet and World Wide Web," both facilitated by Laura J. Bender and Ann Eagan of the University of Arizona; "AGRICOLA: Trends and Tips," by Susan Wilzer and Dottie Heise, U.S. National Agricultural Library; "Bringing GIS to Library Users: Introduction and Overview," by Craig Wissler, University of Arizona; "CAB Abstracts Update and Workshop," by Christina Cunliffe, CAB International; and "FSTA [Food Science and Technology Abstracts]," by John Metcalfe, International Food Information Service.

The U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable met for two days prior to the Conference opening. A Roundtable report follows in this issue of *ALIN*.

Contents of This Issue:

Editor's Note

The reports on the USAIN/IAALD Joint Conference and the U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable are being jointly published in this issue of *Agricultural Libraries Information Notes (ALIN)* and in the *Quarterly Bulletin (QB)* of IAALD, v. 42, no. 2, 1997. *ALIN* thanks Antoinette Paris (Toni) Powell, editor of the *QB* (and Director, Agriculture Library, University of Kentucky), for sharing the abstracts of papers also printed here. Complete proceedings of the Conference are being published in the *Quarterly Bulletin*.

Toni Powell and Jan van der Burg, USAIN and IAALD Presidents respectively, gave the introductions and welcomes at the opening session, along with Barbara Hutchinson, Conference and Program Chair; Pamela André, Director of the National Agricultural Library; and, Sylvia Piggott, President of the Special Libraries Association.

Thursday's keynote speaker, Dr. Marcos Kisil of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, spoke on the topic, "Provider/User Relationship in Information Systems: The Perspective of the Developing World." Dr. Kisil stated that developing countries need to begin the process of change at the local level. Technology must be adapted and applied in ways that will not widen the gap between the have and have nots. The role of librarians is to build bridges between the producers and users of information.

An IAALD Board meeting before the Joint Conference opened. (L-R) Janeti Bombini de Moura, Jodee Kawasaki, Toni Powell, Margot Bellamy, YU Ge, Jan van der Burg, Carol Boast Robertson, Pamela André, Edith Hesse, Anton Mangstl, and Thiendou Niang.

Concurrent Papers I: International

Two sets of workshops followed the keynote address and refreshment break. Jodee Kawasaki, Montana State University, moderated the first group, "Strategic Planning: Managing Change." Tim Cullen, from the Natural Resources Institute in the United Kingdom, presented "Enjoying the Privatization Process and Thriving in Periods of Dramatic Change: A Case Study from the Agricultural Documentation Sector." The presentation covered the privatization of the Natural Resources Institute from an anecdotal perspective. For those who might encounter a similar situation in the future, Cullen stressed the importance of good communication with staff as well as retaining a positive attitude and a sense of humor.

Joseph Judy of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) office in Rome, Italy, gave the second presentation, "WAICENT: The World Agriculture Information Center." Judy described the FAO and discussed FAOINFO Info Flow, FAOSTAT Info Flow, FAOSIS Info Flow, WAICENT Benefits, and the FAO Home Page. The URL for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is:
< http://www.fao.org >

Dr. H. Friedrich represented the Zentralstelle für Agrardokumentation und Information located in Germany. His topic was, "The German Agricultural Information Network (Deutsches Agrarinformationsnetz, DAINet) — Goals, State of the Art and Future Perspectives." An update and discussion of DAINet was offered as well as future plans for the database.

Dottie Heise and Susan Wilzer (speaking) conducted the pre-conference workshop, "AGRICOLA: Trends and Tips."

Kay Mowery, Georgia Experiment Station Library, moderated the second

Toni Powell

Anne Fox

Dana Boden

Amy Blair

Robyn Frank

Cynthia Via

Barbara Hutchinson

Andrea Powell

USAIN Executive Council

(Above) Continuing members: Toni Powell (President), Amy Blair (Secretary/Treasurer), Robyn Frank (NAL Liaison), Cynthia Via (Past President), Barbara Hutchinson (Director), and Andrea Powell (Director). Anne Fox and Dana Boden, outgoing Directors. (Right and below)Newly elected to the USAIN Council are Rita Fisher (President-Elect) and Directors, Debbie Currie, Kay Mowery, Irwin Weintraub, and Pat Wilson.

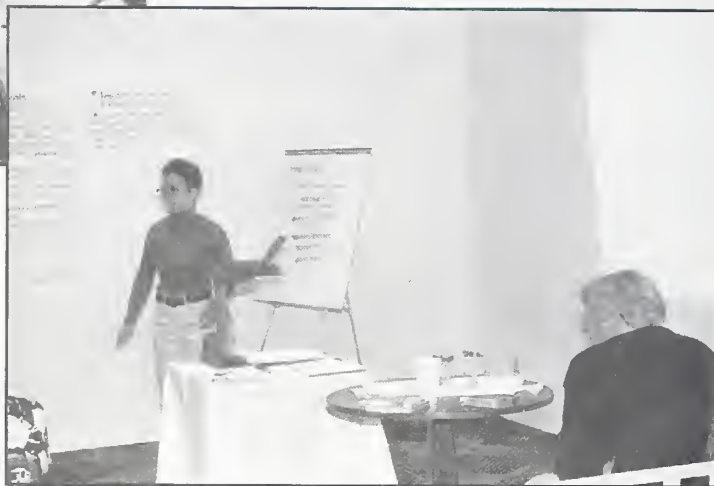Rita Fisher

Debbie Currie

Kay Mowery

Irwin Weintraub

Pat Wilson

set of workshops, "Designing Information Tools." Corinne de Gracia, Edith Hesse, Jane Johnson, Fernando Garcia, Miguel Efren Orozco, Estela Amador, and Jose Juan Caballero of the CIMMYT Library in Mexico made the first presentation, "Adapting a Second Generation Integrated Library System (ILS) and Extending It to Users Worldwide via the Internet." They explained the process and criteria used in choosing, transferring, and implementing this library database which is available through the Internet.

The middle presentation in this series was "Semi-Arid Tropical Crops Information Service (SATCRIS). A Decade Later: Impact of this Service on Agricultural Scientists." Presenter S. Srinivas, from the ICRISAT in India, described SATCRIS products and services provided by ICRISAT. One of the goals of this agency is to increase outreach in order that additional scientists are aware of the available services. Attendees were encouraged to learn more at:

< http://www.cgiar.org/ICRISAT >

The third presentation, "AGRINET Integrated Information System (AIIS) of Sri Lanka: An Information System for Library Automation in Developing Countries," was given by Neil Upali Yapa of the International Irrigation Management Institute in Sri Lanka. The AGRINET Integrated Information System provides for acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, serials control, and current awareness. A union catalog, union list, and national bibliography contribute to the libraries' ability to share resources.

Luncheon Program

Jan van der Burg, IAALD President, served as moderator for the luncheon program. He recognized international visitors and sponsors for the USAIN/IAALD Joint Conference. Jane Johnson, Rita Fisher, and Carol Boast Robertson presented IAALD with a check for $35,000 from the sale of *Agricultural Information Resource Centers: A World Directory 1995*, which they edited. The luncheon speaker was Thiendou Niang, from the Netherlands. He is employed in Information and Capacity Development by Centre Technique de Cooperation Agricole et Rurale. Speaking on "Information Partnerships in a Changing World — a view from Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific," Niang stated that the Third World Countries are becoming increasingly democratic and have

The "CAB Abstracts Update and Workshop," facilitated by Christina Cunliffe.

(L-R) Sylvia Piggott, Pamela André, Toni Powell, and Jan van der Burg
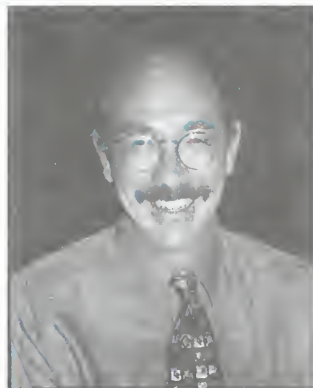

Barbara Hutchinson

Marcos Kisil

Jodee Kawasaki

Tim Cullen

Joseph Judy

Holger Friedrich

Kay Mowery

Corinne de Gracia

Edith Hesse

Jane Johnson

Fernando Garcia

Miguel Efren Orozco

S. Srinivas

Marcela Chrenekova talks to John Metcalfe at the International Food Information Service exhibit. Metcalfe was also the facilitator for the pre-conference workshop on FSTA.

system worked, pinpointing the areas (technical, economic, and social) where the system had not performed up to expectations. She also gave perspectives on funding and on partnerships.

Qiaoqiano Zhang, Margot Bellamy, and Stephen Rudgard, from CAB International, addressed "CAB International's CD-ROM Sponsorship Program: Some New Initiatives." Bellamy reviewed CABI's role in providing information technology and resources to developing countries. Findings of an evaluation of performance and effectiveness included some constraints in providing service in Africa because of the limited technology skills of information specialists as well as users' unfamiliarity with the technology. Demand for CABI resources increased in China thanks to a policy enforcing the use of published information in the research process.

broad information needs. Technology is the tool of choice to further the progress of development. Linkages to other countries, partnerships, and networking are now the norm.

grey literature dealing with Latin American natural resources management in agriculture. She also reported the results of a study of how well the

Anita Battiste, University of Florida, moderated the second series of presentations. Tricia Larner, repre-

Concurrent Papers II: International

Conference attendees had the opportunity to select from three series of programs which were offered simultaneously. Ann Fiegen, University of Arizona, served as moderator for the first session. Marita Acha from the Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales in Lima gave a presentation entitled, "Smallholder Agriculture in Peru: Access to Information." Acha described the geography, agricultural zones, farm sizes, social groups, and languages of Peru that affect the type of information that is required and its accessibility. It was Acha's view that current information systems need to be restructured if they are to serve small farmers or peasants.

Elizabeth Goldberg from the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) in Colombia presented "International Electronic Partnerships in Management of Grey Literature." Goldberg described the development of a networked information source for

(L-R) Jan van der Burg, IAALD President, Carol Boast Robertson, Thiendou Niang of Centre Technique de Cooperation Agricole et Rurale (CTA), Rita Fisher, and Jane Johnson. At the first formal luncheon of the joint conference, Robertson, Fisher, and Johnson presented IAALD with a check for $35,000 from the sale of Agricultural Information Resource Centers: A World Directory 1995, which they edited and which IAALD and CTA sponsored.

Neil Upali Yapa

Jan van der Burg
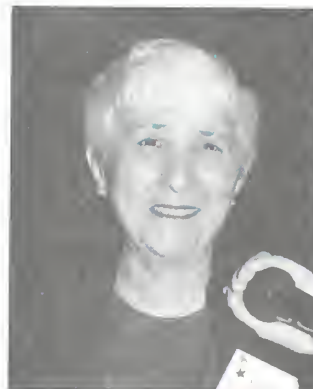
Thiendou Niang

Ann Fiegen

Marita Acha

Elizabeth Goldberg

Margot Bellamy

Anita Battiste

Tricia Larner

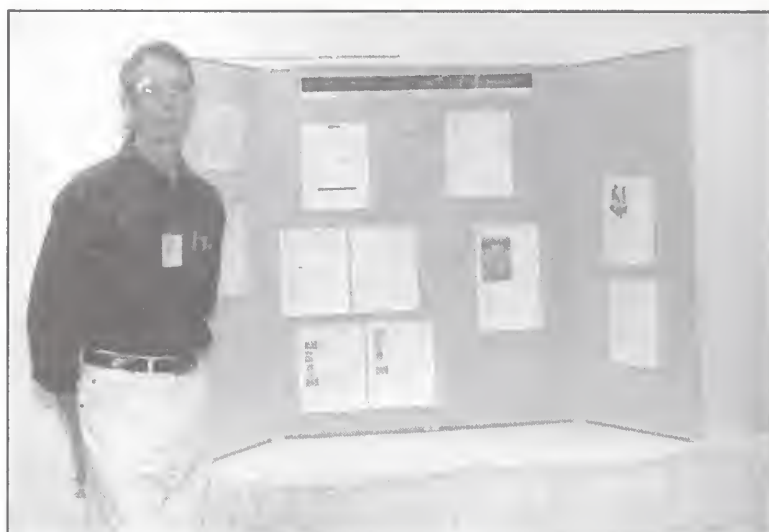Peter Walton

Chris Addison

Eleanor Mathews

Pamela André

Michal Demes

Jana Skládalová

Tomaz Bartol

Michael Haseltine at the poster session with "Designing a Web Resource on Aridic Soils of Israel and the U.S."

senting the Tropical Beef Centre of the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Australia, gave the initial presentation, "Off the Dirt Track: Connecting Australian Beef Producers to the Internet." Larner discussed a program to connect rural beef producers in Australia. Specific projects included MECIS, an electronic communication and information system for the meat industry; Farmwide's "1000 Farmers Online;" Rural Women and Communication, addressing gender issues and technology; and Internet Content for Farmers' Analysis to analyze accessibility and presentation. General challenges include an inadequate telecommunication infrastructure, lack of standard costs, and user education issues.

Peter Walton from the Pacific Regional Agricultural Programme in Fiji, spoke about "Improving Access to Agricultural Information in the Rural Areas in Fiji." Factors that limit service to Fiji farmers include the large number of islands that compose Fiji, geographical distance and travel considerations, small budgets, and inadequate telecommunications. Walton plans to establish a resource center containing newsletters, newspapers, books, posters, and leaflets.

"A 'Web Without Frontiers:' Building European Partnerships on the Internet" was the subject of the talk by Chris Addison from Communique in Ireland. Addison is a consultant who collaborated with Peter Ballantyne of the European Center for Development and Policy Management (ECDPM) on specific projects. Covered in the presentation was creation of Addison's and Ballantyne's web site which emphasized links to a few good sites. Issues included creating a multi-aspect, dynamic, complex, integrated, and easy to publish site using good navigation, retrieval, and mapping networks. URLs mentioned include:
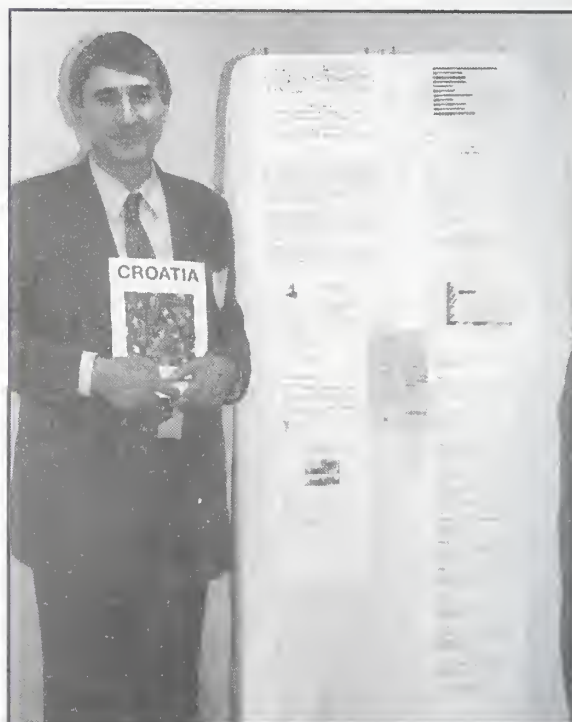
< http://www.oneworld.org >

and

< http://www.nri.org >

Eleanor Mathews, Iowa State University, moderated the third session which began with Pamela André, Director of the U. S.

National Agricultural Library, and Michal Demes, Director of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture in the Slovak Republic, making a joint presentation: "Accomplishments of the U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable." André stated the U.S. policy goal of supporting developing democracies and gave the history, objectives, and accomplishments of the Roundtable. Demes said that the purpose of the Roundtable is to aid Central and Eastern European librarians in information technology. The Internet is important to these librarians to facilitate cooperation with the FAO, NAL, and other centers in the United States, Europe, and Africa. Demes also demonstrated a multi-media CD-ROM product, "Slovakia for the World."

Dr. Jana Skládalová, Director of the Central Food Library at the Institute of Agricultural and Food Information in the Czech Republic, discussed, "Progress in Computerization Activities in the Czech Republic." Skládalová described the structure, characteristics, and automation efforts of public libraries, libraries of higher-learning institutions, and national scientific libraries in the Czech Republic. She also discussed the Czech Agricultural Information Network. Member institutions include the Institute of Agricultural and Food Information, four higher-learning

Nikola Kezic at his poster session entitled "Croatian Natural Sciences Information System: Agriculture."

Librarians from Latin America attending the USAIN/IAALD joint conference. Some of them and others not present for this photo were sponsored in part by USDA's Research and Scientific Exchanges, Foreign Agriculture Service, with the cooperation of the National Agricultural Library. Also at this conference NAL sponsored the U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable whose meeting report also appears in this issue of *ALIN*.

institutions for agriculture, and various other agricultural information centers. Librarians use e-mail and the Internet to discuss similar problems that may be occurring in other countries and seek suggestions for improvements requiring a minimum of funding.

The last presentation in the series, "Present State and Possible Future Role of AGRIS in the Library Community," was given by Tomaz Bartol, Head of the Slovenian National AGRIS Centre. AGRIS is a global information system that is especially important in smaller countries as a means for younger scientists to present their research. Possibly in the future the AGRIS system may include full-text via the Internet and AGRIS may provide greater assistance in publishing articles, for example, advising authors on how to improve their publications.

Joe Swab watches as Michal Demes projects onto a large screen the web pages related to ISTIA and the Slovak Republic and the two poster sessions he and his staff authored.

Poster Sessions and Demonstrations

Conference attendees had the opportunity to view the following wide variety of poster sessions (see Abstracts later in this issue of *ALIN*):

"Designing a Web Resource on Aridic Soils of Israel and the U.S.," by Carla Long Casler and Michael Haseltine, Arid Lands Information Center, University of Arizona.

"Facilitating Access to Agricultural and Natural Resource Information in Developing Countries: What Roles for European Cooperation?" by Tim Cullen, Natural Resources Institute, United Kingdom, and Peter Ballantyne, ECDPM, The Netherlands.

"SDI at STPC," JoAnn DeVries and Katherine Wern, University of Minnesota.

"Developing a Rangeland Management Web Site for the Agricultural Network Information Center (AgNIC)," by Mitchel P. McClaran, Michael Haseltine, and Jeanne Pfander, University of Arizona.

"Ten Best Ways to Search AGRICOLA Through FirstSearch," by Lutishoor Salisbury, University of Arkansas.

"The State Information System within the Purview of the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture," by Jan Simko, Michal Demes, and Marcela Chrenekova, Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA), Slovak Republic.

"The AgroWebClub Project," by Marcela Chrenekova, Michal Demes, and Jan Simko, Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA), Slovak Republic.

"Croatian Natural Sciences Information System: Agriculture," by Nikola Kezic and Jadranska Stojanovski, University of Zagreb and Institute Rudjer Boskovic.

"EXAGRI Project: Availability and Accessibility of Agricultural Informa-

Some of the University of Arizona staff who organized the Conference and coordinated the local activities and arrangements. (L-R) Sydney Hutchinson, Michael Haseltine, Barbara Hutchinson (Conference and Program Chair), Elissa Cochran, Doug Jones, Katherine Waser, and Carla Casler.

tion from Small Farmers in Brazil," by Janeti Bombini de Moura and Nilce Puga-Nass, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil.

Friday, April 4, 1997

Toni Powell, USAIN President, served as moderator for the opening session. Keynote Speaker, Dr. Charles McClure, Distinguished Professor, School of Information Sciences, Syracuse University, addressed the topic, "Developing Networked Information Services: Strategies and Issues." Key aspects of the evolving internet telecommunications environment include decentralization, collaboration, em-

On the second day Keynote Speaker Dr. Charles McClure and USAIN President Toni Powell (behind him) open the day's events.

Ivo Hoch from the Czech Republic talks with Brian Keyes at the Research Libraries Group Exhibit.

powerment, globalization, unpredictability, convergence, distributed IT planning and management, training, policy, evaluation, and new products. McClure discussed the Access America web site, the federal government's attempt to improve the public's access to government services and products; it may be accessed at:

< http://gits.fed.gov >

Another site recommended by McClure was the Global Electronic Commerce URL:

< http://www.iitf.nist.gov/ electronic_commerce.htm >

Important questions that McClure believes must be investigated by institutions writing web pages are: who are the users of the services; what services are most important to them; what are the

Charles King, a guitarist from the Tucson area, plays at one of the conference evening dinner meetings.

costs and benefits of web service; would the organization receive more, or better, benefits by reallocating resources to new or different services or programs; what is the political context; and what are the services that users will need in the future? McClure concluded by emphasizing that although evaluation of web sites is essential, so too is the need for strategic thinking in planning for the future.

Concurrent Papers III: Extension and Distance Education

Conference attendees had the opportunity to choose among three sessions offered in Concurrent Papers III. Toni Powell moderated the first "Breakout Session." Dr. Charles McClure was again featured in a presentation entitled, "Federal Information Policies for Networked Information Services." McClure discussed how "public policy" is made, problems with the Telecommunications Act, and copyright and intellectual rights. There are too many policy issues for a person to be adequately informed about each so McClure advises: 1) find one or two specific issues; 2) stay informed on these issues; 3) be an advocate − explain to friends and colleagues; 4) take action − publicize in newsletters, talk at PTA, etc.; 5) be persistent − some issues are long-term; and 6) be willing to compromise.

Rita Fisher, Washington State University, moderated the "Strategic Planning: Managing Change" session consisting of three presentations. Keith W. Russell, Deputy Director of the U.S. National Agricultural Library, spoke on, "The Value of Information in Agricultural Research." There are more than 100,000 publications in agricultural research published worldwide each year. Russell concluded: 1) creativity and innovation are essential in agricultural research; 2) contributions of an information-rich environment contribute to greater productivity; 3) diffusion of innovations through technology transfer is important; 4) information has a role to play in change or development of paradigms; 5) information is valuable in redirection of research areas to pursue; 6) information is critical in resolving crises, crisis management, and rapid response; 7) information can help avoid duplication of effort; 8) and information is valuable in other ways that can be documented.

Tim Lynch, Mann Library, Cornell University, addressed the topic, "It's a Matter of Context: Successfully Managing the High-Tech Project." Lynch raised several cautions related to managing the high-tech project. First, there is oftentimes a lack of common language between computer professionals and individuals planning the project. It is recommended that there be documentation of what is desired, including a clear definition of the scope of the project. Accountability should also be built into the project plan. Lack of common context between computer people and

The panel at the "AgNIC Symposium" (L-R) were: Doug Jones (Arizona); Nancy Eaton (Iowa); Pam André (NAL); Edith Hesse (Moderator); Rebecca Bernthal (Nebraska) (speaking at the lectern); Bill Feidt (in front of the lectern) demonstrates the AgNIC web pages, projected on a screen simultaneously.

UIN — Comprehensive German Nutrition Information Service on the Web." The presenter, Dr. Roy Ackmann, Director of the Nutrition Information Center at the University of Giessen, indicated that GENUIN is the most extensive information system for nutrition in Germany. It can provide World Wide Web access to all local databases, and it contains links to international web sites as well.

Last in the series was, "AgEcon Search: Research in Agricultural Economics." Because of the illness of the author and scheduled speaker, Patricia Rodkewich, this was presented by Louise Letnes from the University of Minnesota. The AgEcon project is a cooperative effort by agricultural economists and librarians to transmit, organize, and preserve publications in an electronic format. "AgEcon Search" has been designated the electronic publisher of choice for agricultural economic literature by the American Agricultural Economics Association. After acquiring and mounting working/staff papers in this field, it is hoped to expand the database by adding other types of publications in the future. The URL for this web site is:

< http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/ >

those planning the project could result in project failure.

Janet A. McCue, Head of Technical Services, Mann Library, Cornell University, presented, "Why Should a Cataloging Department Hire a Metadata Specialist? and, Are There Any Out There?" McCue defined metadata as data about data. The role of catalogers is being re-defined. Catalogers should be metadata specialists but should also articulate the unique value they bring to the ability to connect people to information.

Sharon Fujitani, California Polytechnic State University, served as moderator for session three, "Web Site Demonstrations." The opening presentation was, "INFOMINE: Unique Web Resource for Agricultural Information," by Charlene M. Baldwin and Steve Mitchell, both from the University of California, Riverside. INFOMINE is a library of scholarly resources developed in 1993 at Riverside. It serves as both a web index and a search engine. This award-winning web site has more than 9500 links to other sites and is arranged by disciplinary focus with ten major research interests. The

URL for INFOMINE is:
< http://lib-www.ucr.edu >

The middle presentation originally titled, "How the WWW Redefines the Role of Information Specialists Working in the Fields of Nutrition and Agriculture," was later renamed, "GEN-

Bill Feidt (seated, center) continued the AgNIC demonstration after the symposium speakers finished their presentations.

Charles McClure

Keith W. Russell

Tim Lynch

Janet A. McCue

Sharon Fujitani

Charlene M. Baldwin

Roy Ackmann

Louise Letnes

Nancy Eaton

Rebecca Bernthal

Ina Pour-El

George Ruyle

Doug Jones

Richard Thompson

Jean Gilbertson

Bill Feidt

Afternoon Programs

The first part of the afternoon was devoted to an update on the AgNIC project. Edith Hesse from the CIMMYT Library in Mexico moderated this session entitled, "Agricultural Network Information Center (AgNIC) Symposium." Pam André explained that AgNIC is a collaborative effort by the National Agricultural Library and several land-grant institutions to provide Internet access to agriculture-related information. Nancy Eaton, from Iowa State University, stated that although the pilot project will end on June 30, 1997, it is expected that AgNIC will continue. Eaton discussed Alliance Guidelines, drafted on April 3, 1997, and stated that additional participating libraries are needed. Several librarians discussed their institutions' involvement in the AgNIC project. Speakers and their institutions' subject area involvement in AgNIC were:

Rebecca Bernthal, University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Plant Sciences.

Ina Pour-El, Iowa State University: Animal Science.

Dr. George Ruyle, and Doug Jones, University of Arizona: Rangeland Management.

Richard Thompson, National Agricultural Library: Food and Nutrition, and Rural Information.

Ellie Mathews, Iowa State University, and Jean Gilbertson, University of Wisconsin-Madison, spoke on behalf of AgNIC users.

Bill Feidt provided the AgNIC web site demonstrations. The URL for the AgNIC home page is:

< http://www.agnic.org >

A demonstration by vendors and colleagues, as well as a refreshment break, followed the AgNIC presentation.

The late afternoon program was "U.S. National Preservation Program Update and Announcement of a New Initiative for an Agricultural Information Digital Archive." Presenters for this program were Evelyn Frangakis, Preservation Officer at the National Agricultural Library and Sam Demas from Cornell University. Demas, who is Co-Chair of the USAIN National Preservation Program Steering Committee, distributed a handout containing the following information: mem-

Dottie Heise at an interlude at the NAL Exhibit. Dottie's cap promotes NAL's AGRICOLA database.

bers of the National Preservation Program Steering Committee; current preservation planning models; premises of the program for agricultural literature; program structure; preservation plan including priorities; participants in the USAIN/NEH preservation project; and future directions. Institutions currently involved in the state and local literature preservation project (June 1996-June 1998) include University of Alabama, University of California-Berkeley, University of Connecticut, Cornell University, University of Florida, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Penn State, Texas A & M, and the University of Wisconsin. If funding allows, the following institutions will be added to the state and local preservation project for 1998-2000: University of Arizona, University of Arkansas, University of Hawaii, Iowa State, Kansas State, University of Minnesota, and Montana State University. Frangakis

Carole Cochrane is visited by Constance Britton at the Chemical Abstracts Service Exhibit.

Evelyn Frangakis

Sam Demas

Gary Paul Nabhan

Kimberly Buck

Biddanda Ponnappa

Victor Desroches

Marilyn McCarthy

John A. Eilts

Tim McKimmie

Patricia Rodkewich

Peggy Johnson

Diana Farmer

Karl Schneider

Carol Warriner

Anita Battise

Maria Porta

Jeanne Pfander gathers sample publications and talks with Andrea Powell at the CAB International Exhibit.

ialists. There is a tentative offer from Kansas State to host the 1999 USAIN Conference. Members were encouraged to subscribe to the USAIN listserv. The subscription address for USAIN-L is:

LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LIB.NCSU.EDU

Leave name and subject line blank. In the body of the message type:

subscribe USAIN-L your-first-name your-last-name

discussed NAL's plans to analyze microform holdings, preserve USDA titles by means of digital imaging, and upgrade the Special Collections program.

Saturday, April 5, 1997

USAIN General Membership Meeting

An overflow crowd attended the early morning USAIN membership meeting, called to order by USAIN President Toni Powell. Anne Fox and Dana Boden, outgoing USAIN Executive Council members, were recognized for their service as Directors on the USAIN Council. Continuing on the Council are: Toni Powell (President), Amy Blair (Secretary/Treasurer), Robyn Frank (NAL Liaison), Cynthia Via (Past-President), and Barbara Hutchinson and Andrea Powell (Directors). Newly elected to the USAIN Council are Rita Fisher (President-Elect) and Directors, Debbie Currie, Kay Mowery, Irwin Weintraub, and Pat Wilson. At the time of the meeting, USAIN membership numbered 143.

Major accomplishments of USAIN during the past year included planning and conducting the USAIN/IAALD Joint Conference; putting together an "Action Plan" for the future; producing the member survey; and developing

"Procedures and Rules" for the functioning of the organization. Goals for 1997-1998, as outlined in the "Action Plan," include: strengthening membership and communication within the membership; supporting NAL and increasing communication and cooperation with this agency; increasing cooperation with other agricultural organizations; and, providing education and professional development opportunities for agricultural information spec-

Keynote Address

Barbara Hutchinson served as moderator, introducing the day's Keynote Speaker, Gary Paul Nabhan, author and Director of Research at the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum. His talk, "Giving Communities a Voice by Integrating Regional, Multicultural Knowledge into Information Resources," highlighted his agreement with the proposition that new western scientific knowledge does not make up for endangered knowledge lost forever. He suggested that we remember that "grey literature" is rich in information which can link generations; that natural and cultural resources should be valued; and, that the expression of values and validity of knowledge that encourages sharing is important.

Heather Severson visits with Leonora Luciano at the R. R. Bowker Exhibit.

Concurrent Interest Group Panel Presentations

Conference attendees had the opportunity to attend one of five concurrent panel presentations hosted by a USAIN Interest Group. Immediately following the presentations, time was set aside for interest group discussions and preparations of interest group reports.

The Social Issues interest group sponsored a discussion of the topic, "Bridging Traditional Knowledge of Place with Technical Environmental Knowledge." Irwin Weintraub, Rutgers University, served as Chair. Speakers Gary Paul Nabhan and Kimberly Buck, from the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, discussed a project on which they are working to collect and make available cultural knowledge of traditional peoples in Mexico. It was emphasized that institutions need to maintain a cultural sense of place and that individuals need

Karl Schneider makes his presentation at the session on "Agricultural Grey Literature...."

Elissa Cochran and Marcella Chrenekova examine materials at the "Prize" table — materials donated by exhibitors as prizes.

to be encouraged to share information across generations and protect the knowledge that is most in danger of being lost. The book, *Valuing Local Knowledge*, was highlighted as a resource.

Biddanda Ponnappa, University of Tennessee, chaired the Document Delivery interest group session. Speakers and their topics were: Biddanda Ponnappa, "Document Delivery for a Global Clientele: Prospects for the 21st Century;" Victor Desroches, Director, Canadian Agricultural Library and Information Management Services of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, "CAL-CISTI Partnership for Document Delivery;" Marilyn McCarthy, Head of Access Services, Arizona Health Sciences Library, University of Arizona, "Docline;" and John A. Eilts, Ariel Product Manager, Research Libraries Group, "Ariel Software for Document Delivery." Important issues for the future include business perspectives of document delivery; cost and speed of document delivery; copyright concerns; bibliographic description and indexing of literature; and, agreement on which libraries will purchase or obtain copies of the literature so that other institutions may borrow this material.

The joint session for the Collection Management and Rural Information interest groups was co-chaired by Tim McKimmie, New Mexico State University, and Jodee Kawasaki, Montana State University. Speakers addressed the topic of "Agricultural Grey Literature, Alternative Literature, and State and Local Documents: Problems and Solutions for Information Management." Panelists included Patricia Rodkewich and Peggy Johnson, University of Minnesota; Diana Farmer, Kansas State University; Karl Schneider, National Agricultural Library; and Carol Warriner, University of Arkansas. Grey literature may be defined as anything, regardless of format, that is published outside of the regular commercial publishing channels. Electronic grey literature, as well as grey literature from foreign countries, is particularly difficult to identify and acquire. Cataloging problems may occur when needed information normally recorded on bibliographic records is lacking from pieces. Preservation and archiving can be even more problematic as the medium used for the publication of grey literature is often of a perishable nature. Few, if any, publishers currently have plans for archiving

electronic grey literature. Efforts to digitize and archive this material in an electronic form may present the future with a major problem in the form of backward compatibility and, hence, potential inaccessibility. Also, a large percentage of the population, especially those who do not live in Europe or the United States, have only rudimentary electronic access, if they have any at all.

Anita Battise, University of Florida, and Maria Porta, University of Illinois, co-chaired the AGRICOLA interest group discussion. The panelists and their topics were: Shirley Edwards, Head, Indexing Branch, National Agricultural Library, "AGRICOLA;" Joseph Judy, Manager, WAICENT/FAOINFO Dissemination Branch, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "AGRIS;" and Dr. Christina Cunliffe, Publisher, Database Products, CAB International, "CAB Abstracts." Edwards reported on recent indexing changes in AGRICOLA. She also stated that the *List of Journals Indexed in AGRICOLA* is available via the Web and is no longer being published in print format. Judy stated that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has hired a consultant to review issues related to AGRIS. Cunliffe gave an overview of CAB International and explained the abstracting policy for its database. She compared the CAB, AGRICOLA, and AGRIS databases. Cunliffe concluded by indicating future directions for the CAB database.

Debbie Currie, Louisiana State University, and Andrea Powell, CAB International, co-chaired the Changing Information Environment interest group. Panel members discussed the topic, "Rewriting the Rules: Coping with Change in the Information Chain." Panel members were: Michael Somers, Kansas State University; Andrea Powell, CAB International; and Anne McKee, B. H. Blackwell. All panelists felt that there will continue to be room for all the usual players in the modern information chain but only by creating niches. They also felt that the subscription model would survive but that new author-publisher relationships, and improvement in electronic-

journal status in tenure evaluation, will begin to provide viable alternatives. Electronic access to materials will require new developments in subscription access and archiving.

Luncheon

Moderator for the luncheon presentation was Beverlee French, University of California, Davis. The speaker was Dr. Michael Reid, Associate Dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of California, Davis. His topic was, "Agricultural Problem Solving: Prospects for Use of the Internet." Dr. Reid advocated providing "just in time" information and tailored learning opportunities. Digital literacy should be used to facilitate life-long learning. Key issues for the future include controlling the tremendous amount of information and misinformation as well as the cost and maintenance of infrastructure. Librarians should reclaim their role in certifying the quality of information. The speaker believes the role of online research and electronic information needs to be valued during the promotion and tenure process.

Concurrent Papers IV: Extension and Distance Education

The final series of concurrent papers for the conference were given Saturday afternoon. Session one, "Building Partnerships," consisted of a panel discussion on "Enhancing Access to Agriculture and Other Extension Materials: A Cooperative Project at Kansas State University." Moderator for the presentation was Jeanne Pfander from the University of Arizona. Panel participants, all from Kansas State University, included: Amy Hartman, Electronic Documents Librarian; Luann Ingersoll and Angela R. Jones, science catalogers; and Michael A. Somers, Chair, Technical Services Department. Kansas State University Libraries, Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service, and the National Agricultural Library entered into a cooperative agreement to improve access to extension publications and other agricultural materials. Cooperative Extension provided materials with minimal level bibliographic

records and also helped develop the functional system. The Cataloging Department of Kansas State University Library reviewed the Cooperative Extension records, provided training and support, and provided access to materials and MARC records. The National Agricultural Library, meanwhile, coordinated the project, developed minimum publication information requirements, and provided a file of retrospective records to the Kansas State University Library.

Tim McKimmie, New Mexico State University, served as moderator for the second session, "Training/Strategic Planning," which consisted of three presentations. Patricia Wilson and Toni Powell, both from the University of Kentucky, addressed "Information Competency: It's Not Just Bibliographic Instruction Anymore." They detailed the history of library instruction at the University of Kentucky from 1974 to the present. Library instruction has evolved into information competency as resources have moved from paper to electronic formats. An additional area of change has been outreach in providing instruction to experiment stations and extension agents.

"Case Study of Teamwork in the Reference Unit at the St. Paul Campus Central Library," was the subject of the talk given by JoAnn DeVries, University of Minnesota. In response to unpredictable and rapid changes in the library/information environment, the librarians chose to use teamwork as a structure for self-organizing. Developing teamwork required a strong facilitative role, consensus, and TQM for improvement. The Reference Unit increased its sense of commitment and developed a more healthy and adaptive philosophy.

Lutishoor Salisbury and Alberta Bailey, both from the University of Arkansas, reported on "Evaluation of CARL Reveal Service as a Source for Current Awareness: Case Study at University of Arkansas." Salisbury and Bailey provided the results of a study evaluating student and faculty use of, and satisfaction with, CARL Reveal Current Awareness Service. Findings included: a higher rate of use in agricul-

Shirley Edwards

Christina Cunliffe

Michael Somers

Anne McKee

Beverlee French

Michael Reid

Jeanne Pfander

Amy Hartman

Luann Ingersoll

Angela R. Jones

JoAnn DeVries

Lutishoor Salisbury

Gerry McKiernan

Sandra Leach

Geraldine Holmes

Alfonso Villaseñor

ture than in other disciplines; 80% of faculty and 30% of students could not provide their access number (and were obviously not able to use the system); 53% of users never updated their profile; and, most users found the service to be excellent to very good. One reason that users discontinued use was a lack of relevant material retrieved. While 85% wanted to continue the service, only 42% would be willing to pay. It was concluded that training and re-training are necessary for wider and effective use of this service.

Tim Cullen from the Natural Resources Institute in the United Kingdom moderated session three, "Designing Information Tools/Distance Education." Gerry McKiernan, from Iowa State University, titled his talk, "Give Them What They Want: Participatory Development of a WWW Agricultural Database Collection." He described an experiment to enhance a Web-based science and technology reference library by allowing users a voice in the selection of subject categories of resources to be included within its collection. He discussed benefits and limitations of the study and proposed an alternative model for "virtual cooperative collection development." The URL for the agricultural science and technology reference library [LC class (S)] is:

< http://www.public.iastate.edu /~ CYBERSTACKS/S/Agri.htm >

B. P. Ponnappa and Sandra Leach from the University of Tennessee Libraries presented "Journal Online News: Facilitating Communication on Evaluation of Subscriptions Using the World Wide Web." "Journal Online News" was a web site used by the University of Tennessee Library to solicit faculty input for de-selection during a journal cancellation project. Journal titles were listed on the Web by subject fund as well as alphabetically. Five year price histories were given as well as the measured and perceived use of each title, and its accessibility via indexing or other means of dissemination. The URL for this site is:

< http://toltec.lib.utk.edu/ ~ jon >

Last in the series was "Diversity and Distance Learning: A Challenge for

Carla Casler discusses a *DIALOG*-related document with Hilary Fox at the Knight-Ridder Information Exhibit.

Distance Educators," presented by Geraldine Holmes from Louisiana State University. Holmes stated that learners tend to learn more slowly when the values implicit in instruction differ from their own. Although students may speak English, they may not speak your English. Inter-cultural communication is vital for adult distance education learners, as well as for other learners.

Mid-Afternoon Programs

National Agricultural Library staff presented a library update report. NAL's budget for the 1997 fiscal year is flat, but NAL hopes to protect the collections budget and retain its level of document delivery service. Funds are available renovate part of the building. One of NAL's goals is to revitalize its relationships with land-grant universities. Technical Services has been

Andrea Powell taking down the CAB International Exhibit on the last afternoon of the USAIN/ IAALD Conference.

At the closing ceremony the USAIN and IAALD presidents, NAL Director, and the audience of conference participants recognized all who had contributed to make the Conference a success. (L-R) Toni Powell, Jan van der Burg, and Pamela André.

Kenneth Foster

Carla Stoffle

Eugene Sander

working on a retrospective conversion project. Preservation efforts at NAL continue to move forward. Information Systems continue to support AgNIC.

The last official program of the conference was devoted to the USAIN Executive Council, IAALD Board, and Interest Group reports. This was followed by a Conference wrap-up.

Spanish Translation

Although all of the sessions of the USAIN/IAALD joint conference were presented in English, many of the papers/sessions were translated into Spanish simultaneously. Alfonso Villaseñor, a free-lance interpreter from Tucson, did this translating.

Other Events

A wide range of vendors exhibited their products at the USAIN/IAALD Joint Conference. A list of exhibitors, sponsors and other acknowledgements follows this article. Vendor repre-

sentatives participated with conference attendees in many of the presentations, discussions, and social events, as well as offering the latest information about their products in their booths. This contact is always beneficial to both the vendors and the information professionals.

Conference attendees were treated to a wide variety of food and drink. Many of the luncheons were highlighted earlier in this paper. Continental breakfasts as well as morning and afternoon breaks were available each day in the exhibit area. A Wednesday evening informal icebreaker reception was sponsored by USAIN and the University of Arizona's Arid Lands Information Center. A time for socializing, following the poster sessions, was enjoyed by many of the conference attendees on Thursday. The evening concluded with a Mexican dinner sponsored by the University of Arizona Library and the College of Agriculture. Moderator for the after-dinner remarks was Pam André, Director of the National Agricultural Library. Wel-

coming statements were offered by Dr. Kenneth Foster from the Office of Arid Lands Studies, Dean of Libraries Carla Stoffle, and Vice-Provost and Dean of the College of Agriculture Eugene Sander, all from the University of Arizona. Conference attendees were treated to a southwestern social at the Corona Ranch on Friday evening. A southwestern dinner highlighted the event, followed by music, dancing, dance instruction, and socializing!

Among the local Ari-
zona staff recognized
by USAIN and IAALD
for making the Con-
ference a success,
Barbara Hutchinson
(left) and Carla Casler
(right) were awarded
flowers and Michael
Haseltine (below left)
and Sydney Hutchin-
son (below right) were
given toy kangaroo
rats.

USAIN
United States
Agricultural
Information
Network

IAALD
International Association of
Agricultural Information Specialists

Lunch "on your own," Friday, gave
some attendees the chance to try near-
by eateries and/or investigate the uni-
que items available in the nearby "Old
Tucson" shops. Many of the con-
ference participants attended or-
ganized tours of various near-by sites
on Saturday evening and Sunday morn-
ing, including national parks, desert
museums, missions, and art galleries.
Some chose to add vacations before or
after the conference to enjoy the
scenery and weather.

Conclusion

Special thanks goes to the USAIN
Executive Board, IAALD Executive
Council, Conference planning groups,
vendors, sponsors, and all who made
the Conference a success. We ap-
preciate your efforts on our behalf.
Good job!

USAIN/IAALD Exhibitors

Annual Reviews, Inc.
Bernan Associates
CAB International
Chemical Abstracts Service
Dun & Bradstreet
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IAALD
International Food Information Service
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
Knight-Ridder Information
National Information Services Corporation
Oryx Press
R.R. Bowker
SilverPlatter Information
Special Libraries Association
The Economist Intelligence Unit
The Research Libraries Group, Inc.
U.S. National Agricultural Library
USAIN

Conference and Travel Grant Sponsors

USDA, Research and Science Exchanges
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN)
International Association of Agricultural Information
    Specialists (IAALD)
College of Agriculture, University of Arizona
University of Arizona Libraries
Cargill Information Center
Arid Lands Information Center, University of Arizona
Pioneer Hi-Bred Corporate Library

Conference bags

Designed by Joe Martin, University of Kentucky, and provided through the courtesy of USAIN and IAALD

Acknowlegements

1999 USAIN Conference

USAIN President Toni Powell has announced that Kansas State University will host the 1999 USAIN Conference, April 21-24, 1999, at the Ramada Inn, Manhattan, Kansas. The Theme of the Conference is: *From Production to Consumption: Agricultural Information for All.*

Contact Jodee Kawasaki, the Conference Program Chairperson, with questions regarding the program or to contribute papers to the program.

Jodee Kawasaki
Library
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717-0332

Phone: + 1-406-994-6549
Fax: + 1-406-994-2851
E-mail:
  alijk@gemini.oscs.montana.edu

Mary Cassner

Dana Boden

Robin McBride

Lillian Mesner

Meet the Authors of the Conference Report

Mary Cassner

Mary Cassner, one of the authors of the report on the USAIN conference, is an Assistant Professor and Subject Specialist Librarian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her duties include reference, collection development, and library instruction in her liaison areas of Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife; Agricultural Meteorology; Entomology; and Dentistry. She holds B.S. and M.Ed. degrees from the University of Nebraska as well as the M.L.S. from Emporia State University.

Dana Boden

Dana W. R. Boden, the second of the authors of the report on the USAIN conference, is an Associate Professor and Subject Specialist Librarian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has liaison responsibilities for four departments in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, namely Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication; Animal Science; Biochemistry; and Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences; plus the Center for Biotechnology. She holds a B.S. in Agriculture and an M.A. in Education from Western Kentucky University, and the M.S.L.S. from the University of Kentucky. She currently is working on dissertation research for the Ph.D. in Administration, Curriculum, and Instruction at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Robin McBride

Robin McBride, the third of the conference report authors, is a reference librarian at C.Y. Thompson Library, the Agriculture and Natural Resources branch at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Her liaison areas are Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife; Agricultural Meteorology; Biosys-

tems Engineering; and Biometry. Among many other things, she is interested in making government documents and numeric data more accessible. McBride received her M.L.S. at Rutgers University, and she also has a B.S. and an M.S. degrees in soil science. Previously, she was a researcher in soil fertility and ecology at San Diego State University; that involved multidisciplinary research at an LTER research site in New Mexico.

Lillian Mesner, Margaret Merrill, and Joseph N. Swab

Also contributing to the conference report were Lillian Mesner of the Agriculture Library of the University of Kentucky in Lexington; Margaret Merrill from the University Libraries, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg; and Joseph N. Swab, *ALIN* Editor, National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland. Swab also served as the photographer for the USAIN/IAALD Conference, and selected photographs appear with this and the following articles.

Margaret Merrill

Joseph N. Swab
photo: S. Fugate

Thedis Washington

Ina Pour-El

Conference Scholarship Awards

USAIN awarded two $500 scholarships to new members to help with the costs of attending the joint USAIN/IAALD national conference in Tucson, Arizona. The scholarships were set up to be awarded to librarians new to the field of agriculture or new attendees at a USAIN conference.

Thedis Washington

One of the scholarship awardees was Thedis S. Washington, who is the Agriculture Reference Librarian at R. M. Cooper Library, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina. She is a native of Alabama. Thedis earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1984 from Tuskegee Institute and an Master of Library and Information Science in 1995 from Louisiana State University.

After graduating from Tuskegee Institute, Thedis worked in food service, retail, and banking. She later ventured out to discover the library world at the Levi Watkins Learning Center, Alabama State University, in Montgomery, Alabama. She served as a serials assistant for two years and later moved to the reference department as a reference assistant providing traditional reference service and work with interlibrary loans. Thedis enjoyed working in the library so much that in 1994 she decided to enroll in library school at Louisiana State University and worked as the assistant to the editors of the RQ magazine. Thedis says she especially enjoyed her internship on the reference desk under the auspices of Emma Perry, Dean, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Thedis is Clemson University's representative for the Fund for Rural America grant proposal. Among her other activities are serving as the Affirmative Action Chair, Special Libraries Association (SLA), and being an American Girl's Club (Clemson, South Carolina) mentor. Thedis is a current member of the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN), Special Libraries Association (SLA), Piedmont Library Association, and South Carolina Library Association. When she is not busy with library activities, Thedis enjoys reading, fishing, singing, and writing poetry.

Ina Pour-El

The other 1997 USAIN Conference scholarship awardee was Ina Pour-El, who is the designer and developer of the AgNIC Animal Science Web pages for the Iowa State University section of the NAL coordinated Agricultural Network Information Center. She also manages the associated online animal science reference service, AnSci Answers. A 1994 graduate of the University of Iowa, School of Library and Information Science, she was first hired as a temporary General Reference/Instructional Services librarian at Iowa State University in 1995. After six months she transferred to the Science and Technology division. There she combines the subject expertise gained in her previous career as a molecular/cellular biology researcher with the skills of an MLS to assist patrons as a general science consultant and subject specialist. In her "free" time at the library, she's also acting Zoology/Genetics bibliographer and Chemistry/Physics reference librarian, and she still enjoys working at the general reference desk.

Nilce Puga-Nass and Janeti L. Bombini de Moura of the Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil, presented the USAIN/IAALD poster session "EXAGRI Project: Availability and Accessibility of Agricultural Information from Small Farmers in Brazil.

Authors' Abstracts of Papers from the USAIN/IAALD Joint Conference, "The Information Frontier: Linking People and Resources in a Changing World," Tucson, Arizona, April 3-5, 1997*

*Not all papers were submitted for publication. Full papers are being published with the proceedings of the Conference in the *Quarterly Bulletin (QB)* of IAALD, v. 42, no. 2, 1997, edited by Antoinette Paris (Toni) Powell, (Director, Agriculture Library, University of Kentucky). Abstracts are arranged in the order papers were presented at the USAIN conference. For photos of the speakers see those in the conference report on the preceding pages.

Information Age: Less Developed Countries and the Challenges in the Relationship Between Producers and Users of Information

Marcos Kisil
W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Brazil

A new age is upon us and no one can halt its progress. The new information and communication technologies offer immense opportunities to all societies and individuals for alternative, truly universal, and often cheaper ways of accessing and disseminating information. But will those opportunities be offered equally to any society in the world? Less developed countries are in a particularly precarious position. While the importance of the information revolution has been recognized at the highest political levels in many developing countries, a major concern is how to apply information technologies to development effectively so as to reduce, rather than widen and deepen, the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" and worsen inequality across the technological divide. The major problems are posed not by the technologies as such, which can in general be acquired and adapted if appropriate resources are mobilized, but rather by the political, social, organizational, and ethical issues involved. This paper examines the global development dilemma, the potential impact of technology upon development, and the role of information professionals in building bridges between producers and users of information.

Enjoying the Privatization Process and Thriving in Periods of Dramatic Change: A Case Study From the Agricultural Documentation Sector

Tim Cullen
Natural Resources Institute, United Kingdom

In 1996, the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) was privatized. It transferred from the ownership of a UK Government Department and was split into two parts, one a private company owned by a consortium of Universities while the other became part of a University. A history of the NRI is provided, along with the rationale behind the decision to remove it from Government ownership. The impact of the privatization process on the Library and Information Services Group and its staff and the support it provided to the Institute is covered along with main points from the legal document that enabled the Library to move into a University. The numerous changes imposed on the Library are described and summarized, and a short section towards the end of the paper gives advice on survival of privatization, for others who may have to go through it. A sense of humor is the most important necessary attribute for the library manager.

WAICENT, World Agricultural Information Centre: FAO's Information Gateway privatization

Joseph R. Judy, Anton Mangstl, and Fynvola Le Hunte Ward
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, Italy

The specific components which make up the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT) at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are described. WAICENT comprises three principal components which are interactive and complementary: FAO-STAT, for the storage and dissemination of statistical information; FAO-INFO, which covers hypermedia information; and FAOSIS, which covers very specialized information systems. WAICENT has brought a new strategic information approach related to paper versus electronic distribution and to dissemination versus central storage. Emphasis is given in this paper to the public information initiatives under WAICENT; the specialized information services provided by the various departments of FAO and delivered through WAICENT; and the full-text document storage and retrieval system.

The German Agricultural Information Network (Deutsches Agrarinformationsnetz, DAINet) — Goals, State of the Art and Future Perspectives

H. Friedrich and J.M. Pohlmann
Zentralstelle für Agrardokumentation und Information, Germany

Agricultural information and documentation (I&D) has to find a new orientation in a changing world entering the global information society. Not only do the processing and searching of bibliographic databases have to be considered, but also that of all the other types of information (e.g.: dates, events, projects, finances, calculation data, addresses). The end user himself wants to search databases online with the help of simple interfaces. Therefore, the goal of I&D has changed. The aim now is to find the right information source that will contain data relevant to the problem.

I&D centers have at their disposal a large amount of expert knowledge and experience with databases, documentation, and information resulting from their classical subject fields. The transformation of this into the requirements of the new media will result in modern end-user oriented information systems like the German Agricultural Information Network (Deutsches Agrarinformationsnetz, DAINet, <http://www.dainet.de>). This demonstration shows how the transformation of existing knowledge in combination

with modern web and database technology was used to create the world's largest agricultural search catalogue on the web. The classification systems and the contents of the metadata formats are explained. The conclusions give a perspective of future developments.

Presently, DAINet links and describes more than 7,500 agriculture-related information sources worldwide and about 800 institutional web sites. Over 150,000 page requests per month from all over the world illustrate the need for the DAINet search catalogue.

Selecting and Adapting a Second-Generation Integrated Library System (ILS) and Extending it to Users Worldwide via the Internet

Corinne De Gracia, Edith Hesse, Jane Johnson, Fernando Garcia, Miguel Efron Orozco, Estela Amador, Jose Juan Caballero
CIMMYT Library, Mexico

This paper describes CIMMYT's migration to a new integrated library software and the impact of that software on various management tasks. A product of INMAGIC, Inc., the software is known as DB/TextWorks (Windows version). Flexibility and user-friendliness are among its outstanding features. These features translate into a better control over the database by library staff, who no longer need to depend on computer programmers to make modifications. Furthermore, improved features in each new version of the software help meet clients' needs more effectively. The paper gives emphasis to the selection process, which, for CIMMYT, was crucial because of budget limitations and the importance of finding an improved system.

Impact of Semi-Arid Tropical Crops Information Service (SATCRIS) on Agricultural Scientists: Perspectives for the Next Decade

S. Srinivas, V. Venkatesan, and S. Prasannalakshmi
ICRISAT, India

The growth and development of the Semi-Arid Tropical Information Ser-

vices (SATCRIS), its objectives, its products and services, and the promotion of SATCRIS service and products are described The Union Catalogue of Serials in International Agricultural Research Centers has proven a very useful tool in the information sharing process. Its development, how the ILOAN package can facilitate the loan process between the participating libraries, the change from a manual system to an automated SDI service system, and the process of getting feedback from the users of this service are explained. The need for reviewing and improving the SATCRIS products and services, the process of conducting the Impact Study, and plans for implementing the suggestions from the target users are also highlighted.

PURNA - AGRINET Integrated Information System of Sri Lanka

N.U. Yapa
International Irrigation Management Institute, Sri Lanka

The deficiency of library professionals knowledgeable in computer applications and the non-availability of a suitable and less expensive library software had been identified as the major constraints faced by library automation in Sri Lanka. With the view of overcoming these difficulties, the Agricultural Library Network of Sri Lanka (AGRINET) developed an integrated information system for library operations, based on the micro CDS/ISIS software. The system, which is named PURNA, handles major library operations such as acquisition, cataloguing, indexing, circulation, serials control, current awareness, SDI. It generates the forms, letters, statements, and reports that are used in these operations. PURNA is suitable for small and medium size libraries with limited financial and personnel resources, looking for a low cost integrated software.

Information Partnerships in a Changing World: The Role of CTA in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Countries

Dr. R.D. Cooke and T. Niang
Information and Capacity Development, Centre Technique de Coopera-
tion Agricole et Rurale (CTA), The Netherlands

The population of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries is expected to double in the next 30 years. During this period, all aspects of transition will have to be dealt with simultaneously, including rapid technical, economic, social, cultural, and political change. In this context, information policies and strategies take on added importance. CTA's role is to advance agricultural and rural development in ACP countries by promoting the transfer, exchange and utilization of information. CTA's areas of preoccupation with the impact of information on organizations involved in national agricultural systems are program definition and priority setting; program effectiveness; and efficiency of operations. This paper examines how CTA utilizes partnerships to promote development in ACP countries, particularly through regional information programs. The Lome IV Convention (1995-2000), which placed great emphasis on the need for regionally-based development programs, and partnership between the European Union and ACP countries are also discussed.

La Pequena Agricultura en el Peru: El Acceso a la Informacion (Smallholder Agriculture in Peru: Access to Information)

Maria A. Acha
Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales, Lima, Peru

The project described explains in panoramic form the principal resources of information on agriculture in Peru. The emphasis is on systematizing the needs and information requirements of those who shape smallholder agriculture in Peru, as well as the difficulties in accessing information despite the efforts displayed by the rural offices of the Ministry of Agriculture. The case study on smallholder agriculture information was done using the farmers of the Huaral Zone (Lima) as a reference group. The paper presents conclusions and recommendations to keep in mind for development of an Information and Communication system aimed at smallholder agriculture in

Peru. As an annex, a directory of Information Centers and Information Systems in Peru is included, incorporating both public institutions (Ministries and related agencies) and private ones (universities, research organizations, NGOs, etc.).

Harvesting Grey Literature for a Greener World: International Electronic Partnerships in Latin America

Elizabeth Doupi Goldberg
Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), Colombia

In 1995, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation funded a three-year project, *Dissemination of Information on Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Agriculture in Tropical America*, to improve access to the regional literature on natural resource management. The ultimate goal of the project is to improve the quality and efficiency of research and decision-making for sustainable agricultural production in tropical America. The project objective is to acquire, process, and improve access to relevant regional literature not readily available in conventional sources. The project methodology employs several information technologies to carry out objectives and to reduce problems in communication, restricted access to the literature, and duplication of effort. Information is disseminated via diskette, electronic mail, Internet, and compact disc. The project is also evaluating the effectiveness of the technologies as tools for the exchange and transfer of information across borders. This paper addresses the methodology, particularly the consortium model of partnership, the progress to date, and the challenges and constraints inherent working in electronic partnership across political and cultural boundaries. The project is being jointly coordinated by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia and the Centro Agronsmico Tropical de Investigacion y Ensenanza (CATIE) in Turrialba, Costa Rica. Currently, there are fifteen participating institutions in eight countries.

CAB International's CD-ROM Sponsorship Program: Some New Initiatives

Qiaoqiao Zhang, Margot Bellamy and Stephen Rudgard
CAB International, United Kingdom

At the beginning of the 1990s, CAB International (CABI) launched its CD-ROM Sponsorship Program, a scheme whereby CD-ROMs, and associated equipment and services such as document delivery and training, are paid for or "sponsored" by various donor agencies. To date, CABI has supplied CD-ROM products to 180 institutions and over seven major donors have contributed to this scheme. The implementation of the CD-ROM Sponsorship Program has involved partnership with developing countries, development assistance agencies, and other like-minded organizations.

In 1995, CABI carried out two programs to evaluate the impact of these sponsored CD-ROM databases on sustainable development in Africa and in China. The recommendations arising from those evaluations address the following issues: (1) achieving sustainability of CD-ROM database usage; (2) supporting library and information services; (3) attracting and stimulating the users; (4) sensitizing the managers; and (5) copyright.

As a result, several new initiatives related to the CD-ROM Sponsorship Program have been undertaken, including the development of (1) Guidelines for CD-ROM Sponsorship Projects; (2) Pricing Policy for the CD-ROM Sponsorship Program; and (3) Rules on Copyright and Fair Use of CABI Data. In addition, CABI has offered post-sponsorship assistance in order to help institutions in developing countries achieve self-sustainability. The whole approach is an integral part of CABI's Information for Development Program (IFD), which was launched in early 1996. Under this Program, CABI is committed to assisting developing countries towards sustainability of their information systems through a strategic approach to capacity building. The fulfillment of these goals depends on the development and maintenance of effective partnerships.

Off the Dirt Track: Connecting Australian Beef Producers to the Internet

Tricia Larner
Tropical Beef Centre, Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Queensland, Australia

Internet usage in Australia is increasing at a rapid pace. As in many rural areas around the world, telephone services to rural and remote areas in Australia have always been under criticism but the recent increase in demand and supply of electronic information has brought this issue into the public arena. This paper arises from a 5-year project which is examining the use of electronic communication and information systems (including the Internet) within the Australian meat industry. The project, nicknamed MECIS, is described, and number of other projects currently under way also aimed at helping to get rural Australians connected to the Internet are briefly mentioned. Significant challenges to achieving connectivity, including the costs of service provision, inadequate telecommunications infrastructure, and education are addressed, and a brief discussion on the future of the Internet and rural Australia is also included.

Improving Access to Agricultural Information in the Rural Areas of Fiji

Peter Walton
Pacific Regional Agricultural Programme, Fiji

Previous efforts to improve access to agricultural information have concentrated on the major libraries; little effort has been expended on potential users in the rural areas. A survey of Fiji's Northern Division to assess the availability of information resources confirmed that there was a total lack of information resources of any kind. A proposal for a pilot project has been drawn up to improve access to agricultural information in the Northern Division. Information centers will be developed at eight agricultural stations throughout the islands of Vanua Levu

and Taveuni. Resources allocated will vary according to need but will be sufficient to support extension and research efforts at the stations, and serve the community. Existing staff at the stations will be trained to manage the information centers. Through dialogue with the users and technical staff, improved promotional materials will be developed. The goal is to create a better environment for agricultural development to take place.

A "Web Without Frontiers": Building European Partnerships on the Internet

Chris Addison
Communique, Ireland
and Peter Ballantyne
European Center for Development and Policy Management (ECDPM), The Netherlands

The starting points for this paper are the growing trends for information professionals in agriculture and related fields to engage in cooperative activities, and for them to draw on opportunities offered by the Internet. The authors argue that Internet technologies, especially the world wide web, provide opportunities for organizations to collaborate as never before and to create concrete joint information products and services, all through a process that promotes "ownership" among the participating agencies. Aside from the resulting service or product, involvement in these joint efforts can build and strengthen "networks" or "communities" of interest which may, in the longer term, contribute as much to international development cooperation and understanding as the original web sites that spawned them. Using examples from development agencies in Europe, the authors explore the motives and aims of different organizations. They identify four important trends that influence the ways in which organizations cooperate on the Internet – increasing decentralization, growing reliance on databases, greater attention to content, and the emergence of thematic "gateways." Finally, they discuss some management lessons and thoughts on the future use of the Internet.

Progress in Computerization Activities in the Czech Republic

Jana Skládalová, Ctibor Perlin, and Ivo Hoch
Institute of Agricultural and Food Information, Czech Republic

There were 8,853 libraries in the Czech Republic in 1995, seven of which were directly focused on agriculture. Detailed characteristics of all libraries in the Czech Republic and of the seven agricultural libraries are provided in two tables. Library computerization was launched in 1987 with UNESCO system CDS/ISIS. Currently, the Israeli system ALEPH and the English system TINLIB are being used most often, besides some domestic ones. ALEPH became the frame for the Czech and Slovak Library Information Network (CASLIN). CALIN is the proposed Czech Agricultural Library Information Network, yet to be realized. Access to the INTERNET in library areas has been available in the Czech Republic since 1992. Obviously, all of the U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtables have positively influenced the agricultural libraries' activities.

Present State and Possible Future Roles of AGRIS in the European Library Community – the Slovenian Experience

Tomaz Bartol
Slovenian National AGRIS Centre, Slovenia

AGRIS has been widely used as a bibliographic and information utility by European countries. These have accounted for some 165,000 of 340,000 new records in the database on the CD-ROM for the period of 1993-November 1996. In this period, AGRIS/CARIS has been actively joined by new European countries. AGRIS/CARIS is a constituent of the FAO's WAICENT (World Agricultural Centre) network, which is made up of interactive utilities such as FAOSTAT, FAOINFO and FAOSIS. Development in the field of electronic communications has set new demands, some of which will have to be heeded by AGRIS and other similar information systems. The term "docu-

ment" will have to be redefined. Some new elements, such as hyperlinks to the full-text of certain documents might be added in the future to the possible Internet version of the database. More than two decades of experiences in vast international cooperation in the AGRIS community should serve as a valuable basis for application of present and future development in the networked information transfer of agricultural information. Local (national) AGRIS centers should more actively assert their present role in the process of transferring national scientific and technical information. This paper details how the Slovenian National AGRIS Centre has succeeded in doing so.

The Value of Information in Agricultural Research

Keith W. Russell
U.S. National Agricultural Library, USA

This paper reviews evidence from the literature that indicates the various ways information is valuable in agricultural and scientific research. Coverage includes the contributions information makes in creativity, technology transfer, the diffusion of innovation, paradigm shifts, regular revisions of national guidelines on nutrition and other subjects, and in solving national and regional crises relating to agriculture and food safety. In addition, reference is made to the value of information in reducing duplication of effort and in helping scientists re-direct their research into new areas.

It's a Matter of Context: Successfully Managing the High-Tech Project

Tim Lynch
Mann Library, Cornell University, USA

This paper discusses the management of high-tech projects with a focus on one aspect that has not received much attention in the literature of project management and yet, the author believes, is at the heart of a significant number of project failures. The solution is straightforward and, in fact, is commonly known and typically includ-

ed in any textbook on management techniques. The problem stems from a lack of appreciation between lay people and technologists assigned to project teams. At the heart of the problem is an inability of these two groups, the users of technology and those who create technology, to communicate effectively with each other. The technology itself, with its arcane vocabulary and rapid pace of evolution, makes communication difficult, if not impossible. The author argues that the programmers typically assigned to project teams are not trained in the particular communication skills essential to bridge the gap between themselves and the users. Employing systems analysts, particularly in the early specification stage of the project, is an effective yet often overlooked solution to this problem.

Why Should a Cataloging Department Hire a Metadata Specialist? and, Are There Any Out There?

Janet A. McCue
Mann Library, Cornell University, USA

This paper addresses the question of why a Technical Services Department would hire a metadata specialist and whether a "metadata specialist" is really a "cataloger" in meta-sheep clothing. Metadata is loosely defined as data about data. Catalogers have traditionally focused on one type of metadata—the MARC record or the content of the bibliographic record in the library's catalog. Since it is the role of the cataloger to provide intellectual access to the library's materials, catalogers must deal with a variety of questions related to metadata records as the library expands its collection of digital resources. Catalogers need to see themselves as metadata specialists, just as comfortable exploring the FGDC standards for spatial data as they are navigating the maze of MARC tags. Evidence suggests that cataloging departments recruit and train staff for positions requiring broader computer experience and an awareness of larger metadata issues. This paper also explores whether students are attracted to these positions and whether library

schools are preparing technical services staff for these challenges.

INFOMINE: Unique Virtual Library of Scholarly and Educational Resources in the Agricultural and Related Sciences

Steve Mitchell and Charlene M. Baldwin, University of California, Riverside, USA

INFOMINE is a unique hypertext virtual library of scholarly and educational Internet resources developed by a Project Team at the Library of the University of California, Riverside (UCR). Both a Web index and a search engine, INFOMINE provides annotated and indexed links to over 10,000 resources relevant to UCR and increasingly to the entire academic community. INFOMINE has become phenomenally successful. It now records over 100,000 accesses each week from throughout the world, from all web domains, and has over 4,000 other Web pages linking to it. INFOMINE is unique because of several features: its disciplinary focus, its method of selecting resources, its level of annotations and indexing, its sophisticated search techniques, its use of a hypertext database management system, and its high relevance to its identified users. This paper documents these unique features and gives particular emphasis to the strengths of its agricultural resources, indexing, and mission.

GENUIN - A Comprehensive German Nutrition and Agriculture Information Service on the Web

Dr. Roy Ackmann
Nutrition Information Center, University of Giessen, Germany

The Nutrition Information Center (NIC) at the University of Giessen, Germany, is working to develop a suitable electronic information system on the WWW Internet platform. The Web-Site was placed under the Giessen University WWW server. The URL is: < http://www.uni-giessen.de/nutriinfo/ >. The site includes: 1) food and nutrition features targeted to advisory services, journalists (press, television), and the general public,

links to full-text resources from other providers, and links to international Web-Sites; 2) information about current publications and bibliographic references, including an interactive request form that gives users the opportunity to order literature searches — processed by NIC — in bibliographic databases; 3) the NIC Annual Report, stored on the WWW-Server in pdf-format; and 4) agriculture- and forestry-related information and databases to improve efficiency and public relations of government agricultural agencies.

AgEcon Search: Research in Agricultural Economics

Patricia Rodkewich and Louise Letnes, University of Minnesota, USA

AgEcon Search is a World Wide Web site developed at the University of Minnesota by the St. Paul Campus Library and the Department of Applied Economics with the cooperation and financial support of the American Agricultural Economics Association, the Economic Research Service of USDA, and the Farm Foundation. It is designed to index and to distribute electronically reports of scholarly research in agricultural economics, which is broadly defined and includes the economics of agriculture, rural communities, natural resources, and the broad policy issues that challenge and affect them. The literature presently being mounted on the site consists of the current working/staff papers of the departments of agricultural economics at universities in the United States and Canada. Each author is asked to submit an abstract of the paper along with the bibliographic information for the paper in ASCII format. This information is put into a searchable file. The full text of the papers is mounted in a read-only format, Adobe Acrobat. The papers may be read online or downloaded/printed by the searcher. AgEcon Search will be expanded to other types of electronic literature in the coming years.

Enhancing Access to Agriculture and Other Extension Materials: A Cooperative Project at Kansas State University

Amy Hartman, Luann Ingersoll, Angela Jones, and Michael A. Somers
Kansas State University, USA

Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service, Kansas State University Libraries and the National Agricultural Library formed a partnership in 1994 to demonstrate the effective use of the MARC record to enhance access to extension education materials. The demonstration project was slated to run for one year before being evaluated. Now in its third year, the "project" is an integrated and coordinated effort to identify, catalog, and provide access to all of the publications produced by the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Stations. Two significant changes have occurred since the project's inception that have increased access to these materials — many of the publications are loaded as full-text documents onto the K-State Research and Extension web site and they are "hot linked" from the Libraries' online catalog. The project has improved communication between the partners and their ability to work cooperatively toward common and significant goals.

Library Instruction vs. Information Competency: It's Not Just Bibliographic Instruction Anymore

Antoinette Paris Powell and Patricia S. Wilson
University of Kentucky, USA

The Agriculture Library at the University of Kentucky has offered library instruction in some form for the past 23 years. The program began in 1974 with the Library Literacy program that offered on demand workshops, an undergraduate for-credit course, graduate workshops, and programs to extension personnel. By 1988 the program had moved into a library literacy program that was proactive, provided individualized presentations, and provided a mix of electronic and paper sources. This program gave way to the informa-

tion literacy program of 1994 which expanded target groups and collaborated with other areas. A shift in the teaching emphasis in the College of Agriculture changed the way that library instruction was offered to the undergraduate students. The information literacy program of 1994 emphasized the ability to use the information system in general. Another shift is occurring, and we are now moving into information competency where the goal is for the user to become fully competent in the appropriate system for the appropriate use. To accomplish this the programs must be user driven, flexible, and assessment must be done to measure effectiveness.

Teamwork [in Reference]: Getting Results at Minnesota

JoAnn DeVries
University of Minnesota, USA

The St. Paul Central Library is the largest of six libraries on the University of Minnesota — St. Paul Campus. In 1993, the reference unit was given the opportunity to reorganize into a self-managing team. We have had three years of successes and pitfalls in developing a cohesive team based on the principles of complementary skills, a common purpose and set of goals, and mutual accountability. Three factors in team development are highlighted: the importance of the facilitator role; the value of consensus as a decision-making tool; and the use of the total quality management process as a model for continuous improvement.

Evaluation of UnCover Reveal E-mail Alerting Service as a Source for Current Awareness: Case Study at University of Arkansas

Lutishoor Salisbury and Alberta S. Bailey
University of Arkansas, USA

This paper identifies goals of a three-year pilot program, called Super-Service, designed for graduate students and faculty. The basic premise of the SuperService model is to provide access to and delivery of information and documents "just-in-time" instead of

building and owning a collection of information resources based on the "just-in-case" philosophy. Even though the initial focus of SuperService was on major bibliographic databases within targeted subject areas, it includes current awareness tools such as CARL UnCover Reveal E-Mail Alerting Service, ArticleFirst, and ContentsFirst. This paper also describes the approach taken to introduce the CARL UnCover Reveal E-Mail Alerting Service to faculty and graduate students at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. It reports on the results of an E-mail survey to determine the level of user satisfaction, the ease with which profiles are created and updated, the average number of current journals users select for the profiles, the average number of search strategies stored in the profiles, the effectiveness of retrieval, and the overall usefulness of the service.

Give Them What They Want: Participatory Development of a WWW Agricultural Database Collection

Gerry McKiernan
Iowa State University, USA

Librarians have long sought to develop library collections they believe will satisfy the real and perceived needs of users. In recent years, several noteworthy projects have extended this approach to the selection of Internet resources. This paper describes an experiment to enhance a Web-based science and technology reference library by the direct participation of users in the selection of subject categories of resources for incorporation within its collection. During September 1996, users were offered an opportunity to convey their preferences for Internet resources in various fields of agriculture by selecting categories from within a hypertext outline of the Library of Congress classification schedule for agriculture (S). Data gathered from server statistical reports for the files associated with these categories were subsequently analyzed and used to identify the subjects preferred most by project participants. Access data from this project were then used to identify relevant web resources in a systematic review of net sites and also used to

guide the selection of specific resources for priority description and classification within this virtual library. The paper discusses the development, implementation, limitations, and benefits of this experiment, and presents an expanded model for virtual cooperative collection development.

Journals Online News: Facilitating Communication on Evaluation of Subscriptions Using the World Wide Web

Sandra Leach and Biddanda Ponnappa, University of Tennessee, USA

Like libraries everywhere, the University of Tennessee Libraries, Knoxville, are grappling with the serials crisis in academic publishing. We have enlisted the cooperation of faculty to review all of our serials subscriptions as an ongoing activity, and are using the accessibility of the Internet as a means to communicate regarding serials and to encourage participation. We created a web site, Journals Online News, 1) to inform faculty and other scholars about the crisis in scholarly publishing; 2) to call attention to library services related to obtaining journal articles; 3) to serve as a guide to journals resources available on the Internet; and 4) to provide local information about journal subscriptions and the evaluation process. Journals Online News is a Lynx-friendly site so that it can be used as a text-only resource by those who do not have access to a web browser such as Netscape. The "Journals Review" area of Journals Online News today includes lists of titles canceled for each fund, remaining lower priority titles that will serve as the basis of negotiation for new subscriptions, and lists of new subscriptions if cancellation activity was high enough to allow them. In addition, complete lists of journals attributed to each subject fund are now available. This paper showcases how the librarians at the Agriculture-Veterinary Medicine Library utilized this technology to communicate successfully with their users on cancellations of journal subscriptions.

Diversity and Distance Learning: A Challenge for Distance Educators

Geraldine H. Holmes, Ph.D.
Louisiana State University, USA

While distance learning is a hotly debated topic, it is well documented that students do not learn any better at a distance, nor do they learn any less. The implementation of distance education programs provides the opportunity to reach the growing number of adults who are unable to or who will not attend traditional establishments. Yet encouraging adult learning at a distance is an intricate process. Adult learning theory assumes that adults learn from experience, bring experiences to the learning enterprise, like hands-on learning practices, and require a degree of control over learning. These are also factors that complicate the distance education process. Adding diversity makes the process much more complicated. Distance education has the potential to bring different races and nationalities, and various cultural and religious groups together from all over the world. These factors combine to make more diverse clienteles for educators. Learning the best methods of coping with the many diverse issues that they may encounter is impossible for these educators, alone. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is twofold: 1) to present strategies for successful adult distance learning, and 2) to examine diversity issues that may create barriers to effective distance learning.

NOTE: *The remaining abstracts are for the Poster Sessions*

Designing a Web Resource on Aridic Soils of Israel and the U.S.

Carla Long Casler and Michael Haseltine
Arid Lands Information Center, USA

As a demonstration project funded by the International Arid Lands Consortium, the Arid Lands Information Center is developing a Web site to provide scientific and educational information on aridic soils of Israel and the U.S. Aridic soils are fragile and easily

damaged. Loss of productivity of the soil exacerbates problems of sustainability in arid regions. This Web site was conceived as a means of making information on aridic soils more widely accessible, thus promoting better management practices. The site includes 1) images of aridic soils types and descriptions of their qualities, 2) inventories of soils surveys done in Israel and in the United States in states containing arid regions, 3) a directory of soil scientists researching aridic soils, 4) maps, and 5) a guide to educational resources on aridic soils. Descriptions and reference information compiled for the project are provided in English and Hebrew.

Facilitating Access to Agricultural and Natural Resource Information in Developing Countries: What Roles for European Cooperation?

Tim Cullen
Natural Resources Institute, United Kingdom
and Peter Ballantyne
European Center for Development and Policy Management (ECDPM), The Netherlands

In October 1996, the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and Natural Resources Institute (NRI) jointly organized a small consultation to discuss barriers to, and opportunities for, inter-agency cooperation in support of information efforts in developing countries. Based on discussions during the meeting, this poster sets out some of the reasons why organizations in Europe are cooperating: because they must, because they can, and to remain competitive. It also explores some of the constraints to collaboration identified by participants and presents a list of actions identified by participants as possible ways to improve the current situation.

University of Minnesota Current Awareness Service for Current Contents

Katherine Wern and JoAnn DeVries
University of Minnesota, USA

This poster presentation illustrates the Current Awareness Service for Current Contents for faculty on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. Current Contents is a multidisciplinary database that reproduces the table-of-contents pages for the latest issues of the most highly regarded research journals from around the world. One of the goals for service in St. Paul Central Library Reference is to provide access to information in the most efficient and most convenient ways for our patrons. Many faculty find it increasingly difficult to keep abreast of the latest advances in their field because of the amount of information available and competing demands for their time. They no longer have the luxury of time to browse through journals in the reading room, much less read a journal from cover to cover. A personalized profile search of the database, run on a regular basis with results sent to an e-mail address is an easy and timesaving service of value to the faculty. We followed the Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle model for continuous improvement and effective planning. This systematic planning process included developing a workplan for the search, save, and send document process; targeting faculty who might be interested; writing a profile questionnaire and guides to the database; conducting a pilot test; acting on feedback from the test to refine the process; and as the final step, offering the service to faculty members. The Current Awareness Service for Current Contents is being evaluated and modified to ensure that it becomes an indispensable tool for meeting faculty current awareness needs.

Developing a Rangeland Management Web Site for the Agricultural Network Information Center (AgNIC)

Mitchel P. McClaran, Michael Haseltine, and Jeanne Pfander
University of Arizona, USA

New technologies are providing unprecedented opportunities to access, use, and share information about range land resources and their management. Vast distances and widely dispersed people, so typical of rangelands, are a less foreboding barrier because text, imagery, sound, and discussion groups can be accessed throughout the world using the World Wide Web (WWW).

An interdisciplinary project team composed of members from the University of Arizona Library and College of Agriculture is developing a range land management web site < http: //ag.arizona.edu/OALS/range/home.h tml > that will include text, images, interactive programs, links to other sources, and opportunities for public discourse. The text files will include summaries of major topics in the discipline in an abbreviated textbook format, and back-issues of the Journal of Range Management. Imagery will include photographs and maps of rangeland resource distribution and abundance. The links to other sources will include land management agencies and databases describing climate, census, tenure, wildlife, and range sites. Public discourse will be supported by listings of official public participation notices and downloadable public documents that are open for public review and comment.

The Rangeland Management web site is Arizona's contribution to the broader effort, coordinated by the National Agricultural Library (NAL), to build an Agricultural Network Information Center (AgNIC) on the Internet's World Wide Web. Institutions currently involved include NAL, the University of Arizona, Iowa State University, the University of Nebraska, and Cornell University.

Ten Best Ways to Search AGRICOLA Through FirstSearch

Lutishoor Salisbury
University of Arkansas, USA

This poster provides searching tips for users of the AGRICOLA database on FirstSearch. It introduces the record and fields concept and identifies how to find field tags used for AGRICOLA using the labels command. It also explains how to use field searching to focus a search and the use of the limit command. It introduces the concept of precision searching using appropriate proximity operators and bound-phrase searching capabilities, presents other ways to search for specific types of information, e.g., reviews, theses, etc., and provides practical examples to illustrate these search features.

The State Information System within the Purview of the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture

Jan Simko, Michal Demes, and Marcela Chrenekova
Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA), Slovak Republic

This poster session describes the information system within the Slovak agricultural sector. It forms part of the nation-wide State Information System, which has been worked out on the basis of a resolution of the Slovak Government. The following points are covered: 1) strategic goals of the sector in selected problem areas, 2) characteristics of the sector on the basis of task definitions for its sub-sections, 3) limitations of tasks within the sector in the areas of strategy and integration, and 4) the development of an integrated information system of scientific and technical information as one of the projects in which the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA) is taking part within the State Information System.

The AgroWebClub Project

Marcela Chrenekova, Michal Demes, and Jan Simko
Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA), Slovak Republic

AgroWebClub (AWC) is an agricultural communication system based on WWW pages, mailing lists, news and distribution services of the Internet. AWC is dedicated to cooperation and information exchange between agricultural libraries, information enterprises, scientific-research institutes, non-profit organizations, educational and governmental structures. Anyone on the Internet can become a member.

AWC implementation and coordination is the responsibility of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA) in Nitra, Slovakia.

Croatian Natural Sciences Information System: Agriculture

Nikola Kezic
University of Zagreb, Republic of Croatia
and Jadranaka Stojanovski
Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Republic of Croatia

One of the first implementations of network services in CARNet (Croatian Academic and Research Network) has been in the field of libraries and librarianship. This poster session describes experiences of the pilot project Natural Sciences Information System, which started in 1995. In the project there are fifteen libraries in the field of natural sciences, and they are trying to extend beyond their institutional boundaries to provide all necessary information for their users. The Central Agriculture Library began its participation in the project in the winter of 1997. In this age of changing information, changing users, and changing librarians, the project has developed a model that could be implemented in different scientific fields.

Among the main goals of the project are to compile union catalogues of monographs, journals, theses, and Croatian full-text bibliography, to make them searchable through the WWW, and to provide online access to local and commercial databases; to organize permanent education of library staff; to coordinate the acquisition of monographs, periodicals, and databases on CD-ROM; to economize limited financing; and to establish a database for all current research projects in Croatia in the field of natural sciences.

As a result of specific needs in the field of agriculture that extend beyond standard bibliographic databases, we began to build databases with different kinds of data related to biodiversity, animal and plant gene banks, etc. Such databases will also be implemented in the national programs for environmental protection.

EXAGRI Project: Availability and Accessibility of Agricultural Information from Small Farmers in Brazil

J. Bombini de Moura and N. Puga-Nass
Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brazil

Project EXAGRI has been conducted at the Library Division of Escola Superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz"/Universidade de Sao Paulo (ESALQ/USP), Brazil, with financial support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The purposes of this project are: 1) to make available the agricultural information to be used by extension services and farmers, 2) to make accessible the production of specialized literature (bulletins, papers, folders and pamphlets) specially written by ESALQ/USP's faculty and students for small farmers, 3) to socialize agricultural information through farmers' associations, unions, and cooperative societies, and 4) to improve the quality of life and income levels of farmers and rural workers by supplying them with structural and regular bibliographic and non-bibliographic information.

USAIN Interest Group Reports

Agricola Interest Group Report
by Maria Porta, University of Illinois

Lillian Mesner distributed a list of trade publications which she compiled as an aftermath of the previous meeting. The group discussed the importance of such publications for extension personnel and students.

The discussions then shifted to the Extension publications and their importance for the agricultural community. Highlights included:

1. The group agreed that Extension publications are very important to several sectors of the agricultural community, and that AGRICOLA was the one stop finding aid for them.

2. States are handling extension publications in unique, diverse ways. The stage of conversion to an electronic format varies also from full text on the web, to listing of available publications on the web, to no presence on the web.

3. The line separating research and extension publications keeps blurring: some states publish only one series containing both research and extension materials.

NAL is preparing a survey asking the land-grants what they are doing with their agricultural experiment station and extension publications. It was suggested that the survey also appear on the USAIN listserv so it can be open to comments from other sectors interested in agricultural information.

The attendees reaffirmed the importance of AGRICOLA as the database of first choice for the agricultural community in the US. They voiced to the NAL representatives at the meeting their satisfaction with the assignment of descriptors.

Some questions raised:
— Should the focus of AGRICOLA be just research or should it include more popular materials?

— Could USAIN support indexing activities of such publications at the land grants? Could this be related to institutional memberships?

Actions:
1. Recommend to the USAIN Council the establishment of an ongoing group to be in closer contact with NAL. In particular, this group could work with NAL to convey needs from the field related to AGRICOLA.

2. Recommend that the NAL survey of land-grants appear on the USAIN Listserv.

Convener:
Maria Porta
Agriculture Library
University of Illinois
1301 W. Gregory
Urbana, IL 61801
USA
   Phone: + 1-217-333-7687
   Fax: + 1-217-333-0598
   E-mail: mporta@uiuc.edu

Changing Information Environment Interest Group Report

by Debra Currie, Louisiana State University

The new Changing Information Environment Interest Group convened for the first time at USAIN/IAALD '97 with a combination panel presentation and discussion entitled, "Rewriting the Rules: Coping with Change in the Information Chain." The panel consisted of representatives from different sectors of the information industry: Pat Craumer (Head of Partner Publishing, SilverPlatter Information, Inc.), Ann McKee (Subscription Agent, B. H. Blackwell), and Michael Somers (Librarian, Kansas State University). The session was moderated by Interest Group co-convener Andrea Powell (CAB International), who also doubled as the primary publisher representative.

The panelists were asked to consider the following issues:

1. How is technology driving our use of information?

2. What is the future for copyright in the age of site licensing?

3. What are the human resources issues associated with new publishing technologies?

4. Is there room for all the "usual players" in the modern information chain?

5. Will the subscription model survive?

6. Who will be responsible for the archiving of digital information, and for preserving the historical record?

7. Are we leaving users without electronic access in our dust?

Most of these themes had already been addressed elsewhere during the conference, but in a more formal setting. This discussion was informal and audience participation was encouraged. During the nearly two-hour discussion, no real solutions were uncovered, but ideas and opinions were shared in a lively dialogue that we hope will set the tone for future meetings of this new group.

Among the significant points made by the panelists and others were:

—there's still room for all the usual players, but they're not going to be able to do things in the same way; they will have to adapt in order to survive.

—the more information we get, the more we think we need, but it's really too much of a feast to consume; how do we move from information to knowledge?

—we need to understand and appreciate the other players' roles and be aware of the challenges faced by each sector of the information industry; while we are all struggling with rapid change, certain challenges are particular to each sector.

—partner-publishing is an example of the different sectors working together.

—we are seeing a paradigm shift from publication to communication, at least for S-T-M; authors will control process and product.

—for electronic journals, the big question is how will they be viewed in terms of promotion and tenure; publishers are taking a "wait and see" approach.

—we need to be proactive, not reactive.

—we must remember that there is a user at the end of the information chain.

—for libraries, costs continue to rise, but can't be passed on to the consumer.

—is the gulf between the information rich and the information poor insurmountable?

—we need to think in terms of the "integration" of access and ownership rather than access "versus" ownership.

—publishers are trapped in a limbo where subscribers want electronic access, but don't want to part with print access yet.

—the subscription model will survive, but we also need a transaction-based model.

—we are being presented with new resourcing opportunities, such as advertising on search engines.

—it would be better to have a non-profit third party archiving electronic journals, rather than publishers or subscription agents.

The depth and breadth of the discussion was very encouraging. Based upon this rousing beginning, co-conveners Debbie Currie and Andrea Powell have great expectations for the future of this new group. If you would like to join in the fun, please contact one of us and let us know (e-mail addresses below).

Many thanks to our panelists for their stimulating comments and to those who attended the session. We hope to see you again soon!

Co-conveners:
Debra Currie
Middleton Reference Services
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3300
   Phone: + 1-504-388-8538
   Fax: + 1-504-388-6992
   E-mail:
   notdlc@lsuvm.sncc.lsu.edu

Andrea Powell
Publishing Division
CAB International
Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8DE
United Kingdom
   Phone: + 44-1491-832111
   Fax: + 44-1491-826090
   E-mail: a.powell@cabi.org

Collection Management and Rural Information Interest Groups

by Tim McKimmie, New Mexico State University

The Collection Management and Rural Information Interest Groups joined forces to present a panel at the 1997 USAIN/IAALD Conference titled "Agricultural Grey Literature, Alternative Literature, and State and Local Documents: Problems and Solu-

tions for Information Management." The room was full with approximately 50 participants. The panel conveners were Tim McKimmie and Jodee Kawasaki. The panelists were:

Patricia Rodkewich (focus: improving access to academic working papers) Peggy Johnson (removing barriers to remote electronic access)

Diana Farmer (preservation of experiment station and extension pubs)

Karl Schneider (social aspects of grey literature/technological interfaces)

Carol Warriner (The ATTRA sustainable agriculture services)

It became apparent that even a definition of grey literature (in fact even the spelling, "grey" or "gray") could be elusive. There are many problems in dealing with grey literature and each panelist provided a specific focus. Participants from the audience during the second hour of discussion brought forward additional definitions as well as problems of identification and access.

Agricultural literature in particular, has a lot of grey literature that needs to be identified, collected, indexed (and bibliographically described), and preserved. A great deal of agricultural "literature" is alternative literature; is known only to indigenous cultures (as one of the keynote speakers noted), or is distributed as reports that never make it to the mainstream. An enormous amount of valuable information remains grey. A cooperative plan of action is needed to begin making these materials accessible.

Some questions and ideas posed were:

—How does the WWW fit in with the topic of grey literature? Is it helping solve grey literature problems or creating even more grey literature?

—What ways can we work together to divide up the duties of providing greater access? For example, AGNIC now provides a good model for division of labor and providing subject access. Should there be a "grey literature" section on AGNIC or could grey literature be dealt with on selected subject pages within AGNIC?

—Can we use unanswerable reference questions (such as on sustainable

agriculture) to provide direction to grey literature or even to needed research?

One of the things lacking from the discussions were concrete examples of grey literature. Nor was consensus on how to go about attacking the problems achieved. However, the idea for "GREY LITERATURE II: Examples, Difficulties, Solutions" as a possible panel session for USAIN 1999 was born. Perhaps we can get a start on this by beginning now to develop lists of areas of difficulty regarding gray literature.

Convener: Collection Management:
Tim McKimmie
Library
New Mexico State University
Box 30006, Dept. 3475
Las Curces, MN 88003-0006
    Phone: + 1-505-646-7483
    Fax: + 1-505-646-7477
    E-mail:
    tmckimmi@lib.nmsu.edu

Convener: Rural Information:
Jodee Kawasaki
Library
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717-0332
    Phone: + 1-406-994-6549
    Fax: + 1-406-994-2851
    E-mail:
    alijk@gemini.oscs.mon-
    tana.edu

The Document Delivery Interest Group

chaired by Biddanda Ponnappa, University of Tennessee

Speakers and their topics included:

Biddanda Ponnappa (University of Tennessee) — "Document Delivery for a Global Clientele: Prospects for the 21st Century;"

Victor Desroches (Director, Canadian Agricultural Library and Information Management Services of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) — "CAL-CISTI Partnership for Document Delivery;"

Mary McCarthy (Head of Access Services, Arizona Health Sciences Library, University of Arizona) — "Docline;"

John Eilts (Ariel Product Manager,

Research Libraries Group) — "Ariel Software for Document Delivery."

Important issues for the future include business perspectives of document delivery; cost and speed of document delivery; copyright concerns; bibliographic description and indexing of literature; and, agreement on which libraries will purchase or obtain copies of the literature so that other institutions may borrow this material.

Convener:
B.P. Ponnappa
Head, Agri-Vet Med. Library
University of Tennessee
A-113 Veterinary Teaching
Hospital
Knoxville, TN 37996-4500
    Phone: + 1-423-974-4546
    Fax: + 1-423-974-4732
    E-mail: ponnappa@utk.edu

Social Issues Interest Group

chaired by Irwin Weintraub, Rutgers University

The Social Issues interest group sponsored a discussion of the topic, "Bridging Traditional Knowledge of Place with Technical Environmental Knowledge."

Speakers Gary Paul Nabhan and Kimberly Buck, from the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, discussed a project they are working on to collect and make available cultural knowledge of traditional peoples in Mexico. Their research revealed that institutions need to maintain a cultural sense of place and that individuals have to be encouraged to share information across generations and protect the knowledge that is most in danger of being lost. The project involved many hours of oral interviews with long time residents of the area to gain information about how changes in life styles have effected the community. Nabhan and Buck also described their seed saver project among Native Americans in the Southwest. Some of the discussion focused on the loss of native varieties of plants and the effects and benefits of biotechnology and selective breeding on local varieties. Seed saver projects have been launched to protect native varieties that have become adapted to regional conditions. The

speakers highlighted the following as a resource: *Valuing Local Knowledge : Indigenous People and Intellectual Property Rights*, edited by Stephen B. Brush and Doreen Stabinsky, published by Island Press in Washington, DC, in 1996.

Convener:
Irwin Weintraub
Agriculture Resource Librarian
Stephen & Lucy Chang Science Library
Rutgers University, Foran Hall
P.O. Box 231
New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0231

Phone: + 1-908-932-0305
Fax: + 1-908-932-0311
E-mail:
iweintra@rci.rutgers.edu

National Preservation Program Update

Sam Demas, Mann Library, Cornell University

[From the report presented at the USAIN/IAALD Conference covered in this issue of *ALIN*.]

The National Preservation Program for Agricultural Literature (NPPAL), a discipline-based preservation plan, was adopted by USAIN in 1993. With leadership from its governing USAIN National Preservation Plan Steering Committee, substantial progress has been achieved.

The NPPAL's steering committee, representing USAIN constituents and including specialists in collection development, preservation, and library administration, is composed of the following members: Sam Demas (Chair), Evelyn Frangakis, Brice Hobrock, Barbara Jenkins, Jan Olsen, and the NAL Director as a non-voting member (Maria Pisa has served as the Director's delegate). Wes Boomgaarden, who served on the committee for four years (two as Co-Chair), has resigned, and his energy and enthusiasm will be missed. There are currently several vacancies on the Steering Committee, which will be filled through a call for expressions of interest from the USAIN President.

The defining characteristics of the NPPAL are that it: 1) is a national cooperative plan, 2) is discipline based, looking beyond the preservation needs of individual collections to the needs of the discipline as a whole, 3) involves scholars in setting preservation priorities, and 4) has a national library (NAL) that serves a central role as an archive for the literature of agriculture preserved through a series of cooperative projects.

The chief recommendations of the NPPAL are: the formation of a preservation program at NAL; appointment of a full-time national preservation plan coordinator to raise funds and coordinate the NPPAL; and implementation of a series of cooperative projects based on a conceptual framework that divides the literature of agriculture into a number of logical component parts and assigns responsibility for each.

NAL received funding to implement a preservation program and appointed Evelyn Frangakis as NAL Preservation Officer in January 1997. In the absence of a National Preservation Plan Coordinator, the Mann Library at Cornell University has volunteered leadership in coordinating activities of the NPPAL, and both NAL and Cornell have provided staff and funds to assist the program's movement forward.

What follows is a summary of preservation activity in several of the component parts of the NPPAL.

State and Local Literature

Each state is responsible for preserving its agriculture and rural life literature. Under a USAIN cooperative preservation project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), 9 states (AL, CA, CT, FL, NB, NY, PA, TX, & WI) have identified and set preservation priorities (involving panels of scholars) for their state's relevant publishing and 4 states are proceeding to film the top-ranked materials. With funding from USAIN and NAL, an NEH proposal was written for phase 2 of this project, which would extend this preservation activity for 4 continuing states and add 7 new states (AK, AZ, HI, IA, KS, MN, & MT). If the phase 2 proposal is funded, fulfillment of this component of the plan will be underway in 33% of the states.

Sam Demas presented the update on the National Preservation Program for Agricultural Literature at a USAIN session led by Toni Powell.

Land-Grant Publications

NAL is assessing the status of the film and cataloging on the results of the cooperative microfilming project it led. The few states which did not participate in the earlier project will be encouraged to preserve their land grant publications within the framework of the state and local literature component.

Core Scholarly Journals and Monographs of National Interest

Cornell University is responsible for scanning and making available to the nation the core historical monographs and journals of U.S. agriculture, identified by Wallace C. Olsen as part of the Core Literature Project. So far, 2,340 volumes have been scanned. NAL has provided funding to Cornell to secure permission to make accessible those volumes in the core historical literature which are still under copyright.

Federal Documents

NAL, with responsibility for preserving relevant federal documents, has begun to digitize several federal titles (two monographs as well as the *Journal of Agricultural Research*) using preservation quality scanning. NAL has also begun to establish overall and specific priorities for preservation of federal publications.

Pre-1862 Imprints

NAL, with responsibility for leading an effort to conserve early imprints in U.S. agriculture, conserves these publications as needed. NAL has begun to establish a special collections conservation plan as part of its overall preservation goals.

Manuscripts and Archives

Cornell has allocated funding to plan for creation of a published guide to manuscript and archival collections in agriculture and rural life. This Guide will serve as a basis for setting priorities and coordinating national activity in this component part of the literature.

Additional Notes and Future Actions

Other component parts of the literature (e.g., unique subject collections, newspapers, A/V materials) have not

as yet been addressed.

Work has begun to supplement the NPPAL by moving into digital publication preservation. NAL, with the Economic Research Service of the USDA (ERS), GPO, Cornell University, and the Farm Foundation recently took the first step in a cooperative venture by convening a 2-day meeting, "USDA Digital Publications: Creating a Preservation Action Plan," held March 3-4, 1997 in Washington, DC. Under the auspices of the NAL, the meeting was organized by Cornell University's Albert R. Mann Library. The meeting served as a call to action to develop a preservation strategy for USDA digital publications. During the meeting representatives of groups that have shared interests and responsibility for digital publication preservation began to identify the major elements and requirements of such a plan. A subsequent consultant's report has been issued to NAL and Cornell, "Action Plan For the Preservation of and Permanent Public Access to Digital USDA Publications." NAL is reviewing the plan and identifying actions to move it forward in the USDA. Following USDA administration approval, NAL will oversee implementation of the plan in cooperation with government and nongovernment partners. Other component parts of the literature (e.g., unique

subject collections, newspapers, A/V materials) have not as yet been been addressed.

ISTIA Staff Visit NAL

Mr. Michal Demes, Director of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA), Slovak Republic, with two of his staff, Mr. Jan Simko and Mrs. Marcela Chrenekova visited NAL on March 24 and 25, 1997, prior to attending the U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Libraries Round Table and the joint USAIN/IAALD conference in Tucson.

Mr. Demes is an energetic and creative leader in the Central and Eastern European agricultural library and information community. He has especially led the Roundtable region on information-sharing and WWW activities. On March 25, he and his colleagues gave a presentation to the NAL staff about their organization and shared their ideas on ways in which U.S. and European libraries might enhance cooperative relationships through the use of technology.

— Maria Pisa

photo: Jan Simko

Keith Russell (right) introduces Michal Demes (with laptop), Marcela Chrenekova (behind Demes), and Jan Simko (who was taking photo), for their presentation to the NAL staff.

Report on the Sixth U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable

by Janet Wright, Public Services,
NAL

Photography by Joseph N. Swab,
NAL, *ALIN* Editor

Introduction

Twenty participants representing agricultural libraries in the United States and ten European countries met during the first two days in April to discuss issues of mutual concern, and to explore possible new areas of co-operation. It was the Sixth U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable, a series of discussions and exchanges which began in 1991 as countries formerly closed to much western contact became accessible to NAL personnel.

The Roundtable was held in Tucson, Arizona, so that participants could also attend the first Joint Conference of the U.S. Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) and the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD), which was held there April 3-6, immediately following the Roundtable. The theme of the Roundtable meeting, which was arranged by NAL and co-hosted by the University of Arizona, was the same as that of the USAIN/IAALD Joint Conference: "The Information Frontier: Linking People and Resources in a Changing World."

Roundtable participants reported on progress in their own institutions, and, at the end of the two-day meeting, signed a Joint Program of Cooperation agreement. Two Library Directors who had participated in previous Roundtables but were unable to attend this one, sent written reports of their libraries' progress. After the Roundtable, two participants from the Czech Republic and Slovenia presented papers as part of the USAIN/IAALD con-

The 6th Roundtable participants included: (L-R) (1st row) Renata Niauriené, Michal Demes, Ivo Hoch, Jerzy Rasinski, Pamela André; (2nd row) Nikola Kezic, Marcela Chrenekova, Nina Abbakumova, Krystyna Kocznorowska,Ilona Dobelniece, Eleanor Mathews, Jan van der Burg, Tomaz Bartol; (3rd & 4th rows) Jana Skládalová, Letitia Goia, John Metcalfe, Maria Pisa, Margot Bellamy, Barbara Hutchinson, Ctibor Perlin, Janet Wright, and Jan Simko.

Nikola Kezic

Ivo Hoch

Ctibor Perlin

Jana Skládalová

ference. Representatives from Croatia and the Slovak Republic participated in the USAIN/IAALD poster sessions.

The Sixth Roundtable was made possible by grants from USDA's Office of International Cooperation and Development, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, the Soros Foundation, USAIN, IAALD, and VTLS, Inc.

Country Reports

Bulgaria — Ivanka Demireva, Director of the Thracian University Library, had represented Bulgaria at previous Roundtables, but was unable to attend this meeting. Nevertheless, he sent a report stating that since beginning to automate library services in 1989 with one computer, the library has now automated many of its systems, and is preparing to connect to the Internet.

Croatia — Nikola Kezic from the Agriculture University of Zagreb, reported on the relatively new Croatia Natural Sciences Information System. He also participated in the USAIN/ IAALD poster session.

Pamela André presents *Science in Your Shopping Cart,* an Agricultural Research Service publication, to the Roundtable participants.

Czech Republic — Three representatives from the Czech Republic attended. Ivo Hoch, Director of the Central Agricultural and Forestry Library in Prague reported that his library connected to the Internet at the end of 1996. Dr. Ctibor Perlin, Director of the Institute of Agricultural and Food Information, told how both parts of former Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, are taking part in the creation of a union catalog. Jana Skládalová, Director of Central Food Library also spoke.

Estonia — Aino Kuik sent her report because she was unable to attend this year. The Estonian Agricultural University installed ARIEL and initiated use of a new integrated system, INNOPAC. Though they have experienced great difficulties during the last year because of power outages and unreliable Internet connections, they hope their situation will improve in 1997 with a move to a new building on the university campus.

Latvia — Ilona Dobelniece, Director of the Latvian University of Agriculture, reported that the NOVELL network was installed in the library, and that an integrated library system, which will include the installation of ARIEL for document transmission is being developed.

Lithuania — Renata Niauriené, Director, Lithuanian Agricultural Library, reported the implementation of the Lithuanain Libraries Integrated System.
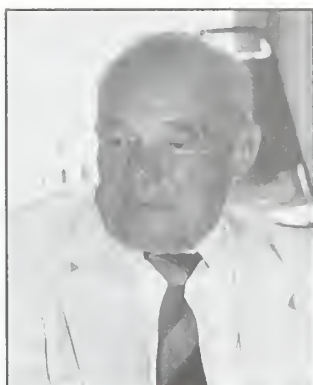

Maria Pisa

Janet Wright

Ilona Dobelniece

Renata Niaurienė

Jerzy Rasinski

K. Kocznorowska

Letitia Goia

Nina Abbakumova

Michal Demes

Jan Simko

Marcela Chrenekova

Tomaz Bartol

Eleanor Mathews

Barbara Hutchinson

Antoinette Powell

Jan van der Burg
photo: Janet Wright

John Metcalfe

Margot Bellamy

Poland — The Central Agricultural Library experienced a change of leadership as its former Director Jerzy Rasinski retired and was succeeded by Krystyna Kocznorowska: both attended the Roundtable. The library completed work on its new National Information System for the Agriculture and Food Economics Research program (NISAEFR) which will link to the Internet in the future. Another achievement was the publication of their *Food Technology and Food Industry Thesaurus*, which was several years in the making and contains almost 19,000 entries.

Romania — The Director of the Library of the University of Agricultural Science, Ms. Letitia Goia reported that the library is still searching for funding to enable internet access and e-mail for the library.

Russia — Nina Abbakumova from the Central Scientific Library in Moscow reported strides in implementing an integrated system, and in establishing agreements with other libraries.

Slovak Republic — The Institute for Scientific and Technical Information for Agriculture (ISTIA) was represented by Michal Demes, Jan Simko, and Marcela Chrenekova. In 1996 ISTIA installed a LAN and connected to the Internet. It hosted two international workshops, completed work on a CD-ROM of information about Slovakia, and launched the AgroWebClub which connects users and contributors to the agricultural information center through the Internet. All of this was accomplished despite the library's move from Bratislava to Nitra!

Slovenia — Tomaz Bartol, from the University of Ljubljana and Head of the Slovenian National AGRIS Centre, reported on the extensive networking activities now linking the country's two universities to the Internet. They have intensified their exchange program with NAL and other institutions, and have continued full international participation in AGRIS and AGLINET.

United States — Several representatives from the United States attended and spoke: Eleanor Mathews, Head of Reference and Instructional Services

Letitia Goia (Romania) gives a presentation at a Roundtable session led by Tomaz Bartol (Slovenia).

at Iowa State University; Barbara Hutchinson, Director of the Arid Lands Information Center, University of Arizona; Antoinette Powell, Director of the University of Kentucky Science Library and President of USAIN; Pamela Q.J. André, Director of NAL, Maria Pisa, Associate Director for Public Services of NAL; and Janet Wright, Public Services, NAL, facilitator. In addition to the representatives from the U.S., Jan van der Burg of The Netherlands, President of IAALD, spoke to the group on behalf of his organization, and John Metcalfe of the International Food Information Service, U.K. and Margo Bellamy of CAB International, U.K., participated during one of the sessions.

photo: Janet Wright

Jan Simko, Marcela Chrenekova, and Michal Demes (of the Slovak Republic) at their poster session on ISTIA at the USAIN/IAALD Conference. They presented much of the same information to the NAL staff during their Beltsville visit.

(Above) Roundtable and USAIN/IAALD participants view the cacti and other wild vegetation at the Saguaro National Park near Tucson. Many wild flowers were in full bloom and the cacti were just beginning to blossom.

(Below) Part of the Roundtable/USAIN/IAALD group at a picnic in the Saguaro National Park. After the picnic participants climbed to the top of a nearby rocky hill, and later viewed the sunset, the night sky, and the comet Hale-Bopp.

New Bibliographies

The bibliographies in the *Quick Bibliography* series are primarily computerized online as batch bibliographies emanating from searches performed by the NAL Public Services Division Staff in response to customer requests. Searches are selected for inclusion based on the currency of the topic, interest among clientele, and probable value to a larger audience. Since October 1988, all *QB's* include search strategies. Unless otherwise specified, citations are from AGRICOLA.

The other bibliographic series, including *Special Reference Briefs*, have been researched and produced to meet special needs of clientele of the library and its information centers. Revisions or updates will be announced when produced. Only one copy of a requested title will be sent; however, requesters may make copies. To request a copy of a *Quick Bibliography*, *Special Reference Brief*, or other bibliographic work, circle the desired title(s) below and send your request with a self-addressed label to the specific Information Center or Branch originating the publication at:

[Name of Info Center or Branch]
National Agricultural Library,
USDA, ARS
10301 Baltimore Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

As of June 1996, listings also include NAL bibliographies and miscellaneous publications that are *available electronically only*. These are listed separately as "Electronic Publications," and full texts are available at NAL's World Wide Web site on the Internet at the URLs specified or through the menu on NAL's home pages. Many NAL publications announced in previous issues of *ALIN* are also available on the Internet, and full texts of new publications frequently are made available electronically soon after announcement in *ALIN*. URL's are provided when possible or they can be found by using the menus in the NAL World Wide Web pages for each library branch or information center, or the listing "Other NAL Information Products" under "How to Access the Collection." The URL for NAL is:

< http://www.nal.usda.gov >

Quick Bibliographies

Q.B. – 97-09. Computers and Information Technologies in Agricultural Production and Management: Part 1, June 1991-December 1993. 550 citations in English. Compiled by Karl R. Schneider. Reference and User Services Branch. September 1997. Updates Q.B. 90-83 and Q.B. 91-146.

Q.B. – 97-10. Computers and Information Technologies in Agricultural Production and Management: Part II, January 1994-June 1997. 544 citations in English. Compiled by Karl R. Schneider. Reference and User Services Branch. September 1997. Updates Q.B. 90-83, Q.B. 91-146, and Q.B. 97-09.

Q.B. – 97-11. Compost: Small-scale and Backyard Systems, January 1990-June 1997. 146 citations in English. Compiled by Mary V. Gold. Alternative Farming Systems Information Center. September 1997. Electronic Version:

< http://www.nal.usda.gov.afsic/ AFSIC_pubs/Compost:SMALL >

Q.B. – 97-12. Compost: On-farm Systems, January 1990-June 1997. 248 citations in English. Compiled by Mary V. Gold. Alternative Farming Systems Information Center. September 1997. Electronic Version:

< http://www.nal.usda.gov.afsic/ AFSIC_pubs/Compost:ON-FARM >

Special Reference Briefs

SRB – 97-07. Housing, Husbandry, and Welfare of Sheep and Goats, January 1995-June 1997. 509 citations from AGRICOLA and CAB Abstracts; languages: none excluded. Compiled by D'Anna J.B. Jensen and Susan Chapman. Animal Welfare Information Center. September 1997. Updates Q.B. 94-36. 123p. Electronic Version:

< http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic >

SRB – 98-01. Animal Euthanasia, January 1990-November 1997. 223 citations; languages: none excluded. Compiled by Michael D. Kreger. Animal Welfare Information Center. November 1997. Updates SRB 93-06. 47 p. Electronic Version:

< http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic >

Rural Information Center Publications Series

R.I.C.P.S. – 54. Innovative Approaches in Rural Education. Revised Edition. Compiled by Kenneth T. Wright, III, and Shirley J. Tuthill. Rural Information Center. September 1997. 61p. Electronic Version:

< http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ ricpubs/innovedu.html >

R.I.C.P.S. – 55. Affordable Community Housing. Revised Edition. Compiled by Katherine St. John. Rural Information Center. September 1997. 64p. Electronic Version:

< http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ ricpubs/housing.html >

R.I.C.P.S. – 56. A Guide to Funding Resources. Revised Edition.
Compiled by Katherine St. John. Rural Information Center. September 1997. 68p. Electronic Version:

< http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ ricpubs/funding/fundguide.html >

R.I.C.P.S. – 57. Arts and Humanities Programs in Rural America. Revised Edition. Compiled by Heather K. Moberly. Rural Information Center. September 1997. 40p. Electronic Version:

< http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ ricpubs/artspub.html >

R.I.C.P.S.—58. Alternatives to Waste Disposal. Revised Edition. Compiled by Heather K. Moberly. Rural Information Center. August 1997. 36p. Electronic Version:
< http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ ricpubs/alternat.html >

R.I.C.P.S.—59. Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas: Fiscal year 1998. Revised Edition. Compiled by M. Louise Reynnells. Rural Information Center. September 1997. 128p. Electronic Version:
< http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ric pubs/funding/federalfund/ff.html >

Nutri-Topics

The following FNIC publications are also available electronically at URL:
< http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/pubs >

97-C1. Nutrition and Cardiovascular Disease. Consumer. Compiled by Shirley King Evans. September 1997. 7p.

97-C2. Nutrition and Diabetes. Consumer. Compiled by Shirley King Evans. September 1997. 6p.

97-E1. Nutrition and Cardiovascular Disease. Educator. Compiled by Shirley King Evans. September 1997. 18p.

97-H1. Nutrition and Cardiovascular Disease. Health Professional/Researcher. Compiled by Shirley King Evans. September 1997. 18p.

97-H2. Nutrition and Diabetes. Health Professional/Educator. Compiled by Shirley King Evans. September 1997. 20p.

Resource Lists

Nutrition and Cancer Resource List for Consumers. Reviewed and selected by Shirley King Evans and Janice Schneider. December 1997. 4p. Electronic Version:
< http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/ pubs/bibs/topics/cancer >

Nutrition and Cancer Resource List for Health Professionals. Reviewed and selected by Shirley King Evans and Janice Schneider. December 1997. 11p. Electronic Version:
< http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/ pubs/bibs/topics/cancer >

Miscellaneous

Urban Agriculture: An Abbreviated List of References and Resource Guide. Compiled by Abiola Adeyemi. Alternative Farming Systems Information Center. September 1997. 25p.

Electronic Version:
< http://www.nal.usda.gov.afsic/ AFSIC_pubs/Compost:URBAN >

Educational and Training Opportunities in Sustainable Agriculture. 10th Edition. Compiled by Jane Potter Gates and staff. Alternative Farming Systems Information Center. December 1997. 57p. Electronic Version:
< http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/ afspub.htm >

ActiVate for Animals / The American Anti-Vivisection Society. Jenkintown, PA: The Society. Bimonthly. Oct. 1995-
HV4905.A37

Agricultural Policies in OECD Countries. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Annual. 10th ed. (1997)
HD1428.A47

Annual Report / Singapore International Chamber of Commerce. Singapore: The Chamber. Annual. 1990/ 1991-
HF331.S58S53

Annual Review / Campden & Chorleywood Food Research Association. Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire: The Association. Annual. 1995-
TP371.C35

Årsrapport / Statens husdyrbrugsforsoøg. København: Frederiksberg Bogtrykkeri. Annual. 1974-
SF15.D4S7

Auditors' Report and Accounts / International Livestock Centre for Africa, ILCA. [Addis Ababa, Ethiopia]: Coopers & Lybrand. Annual. 31 Dec. 1985-
SF55.A35I573

Beretning fra Fællesudvalget for statens planteavlsforsøg og statens husdyrbrugsforsøg. Københaven: Statens Planteavlsforsøg og Statens Husdyrbrugsforsøg. Irregular. 21- 1993-
SB197.A1F3

Boletín estadístico comercio exterior silvoagropecuario. Santiago de Chile: Oficina de Estudios y Políticas Agrarias, Ministerio de Agricultura. Quarterly. No. 1 (enero-marzo 1996)-
HD1876.B665

Bovins du Québec. Longueuil, Québec: Union des producteurs agricoles. Quarterly. Avril 1987-
SF196.C2B68

Bulletin. [Perth, W.A.]: Agriculture Western Australia. Irregular. 4307- c1995-
S478.A82W47

CIRAD Réunion: rapport annuel / CIRAD. Saint-Denis: CIRAD. Annual. 1991-
S479.3.R4C46

Dairy Connection / NDSU Extension Service. Fargo, ND: The Service. Quarterly. Vol. 2, no. 3 (1992)-
SF232.N9D35
Online version:
< http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/ aginfo/dairy/dairyext/dairycon.htm >

Grants On Disc [Computer File] / The Taft Group. Rockville, MD: Taft Group. Quarterly. Version 1.0 (Oct. 1995)-
HG4028.C6G73

Guía Forestal Argentina = Argentine Forest Guide. Buenos Aires: Guías Masindian. 1. ed.- 1994-
TS803.G85

Hoof Prints: The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's Production Management Medicine Newsletter. Blacksburg, VA: The Management. Biannual. Vol. 1, no. 1 (Fall 1993)-
SF623.H66
Online version:
< http://www.vetmed.vt.edu/College/
ColNewsletters/HoofPrints/
toc.html >

Kemisk tidskrift, kemivärlden. Stockholm: Arbor Pub. 14 no. a year. Årg. 105, nr. 9 (Aug. 1993)-
QD1.K35

Labor Management Decisions / Agricultural Personnel Management Program, University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Berkeley, CA: The Program. Three per year. Vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring 1991)-
HD1527.C2L32
Online version:
< http://are.Berkeley.edu/APMP/ >

Memorias del ... Congreso Nacional / AZTECA Asociacion Mexicana de Zootecnistas y Tecnicos en Caprinocultura. [Mexico]: F.I.R.A., Departamento de Divulgación, Banco de México. Annual. 1 (del 5 al 8 de dic. de 1984)-
SF383.5.M6A86

Mitteilungen / Institut für Strukturforschung und Planung in Agrarischen Intensivgebieten, Hochschule Vechta. Vechta: Das Institut. Irregular. Heft 14- 1995-
S465.M58

Mitteilungen Landesmuseum Joanneum, Zoologie. Graz, Austria: Landesmuseum Joanneum, Zoologie. Irregular. Heft 49- 1995-
QL1.S74

MTL-työnantaja: Maaseudun työn-antajaliiton jäsenlehti = LAF-arbets-givaren. Helsinki: Maaseudun työnantajaliitton. Annual. 1991, nro 1-
HD6948.F5M75

Orchard Plant Protection Guide for Inland New South Wales. Orange, NSW: NSW Agriculture. Annual. 4th ed. (94/95)-
SB608.F80734

Performance of Field Crop Varieties / NDSU Williston Research Center, MSU Eastern Ag Research Center. Williston, ND; Sidney, MT: The Centers. Annual. Regional report no. 1 (1995)-
SB188.55.P472

The Practical Farmer: Practical Farmers of Iowa Newsletter. Boone, IA: Practical Farmers of Iowa. Quarterly. Vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring 1986)-
S451.I8P73
Online version:
< http://ekolserv.vo.slu.se/Docs/
www/Periodicals/PractFarmIowa/
index.html >

Proceedings of the ... Annual International Foundation for Ethical Research Workshop. Chicago, IL: The Foundation. 1st (1989)-
QL55.I573

Protocol / The Animal Care Institute, Maple Woods Community College. Kansas City, MO: The Institute. Vol. 1, issue 1 (1990)-
QL55.P763

Publications / Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center. Coffeeville, MS: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Annual. No. 1-
aS627.P55T43

Rapport annuel / B.I.R.B. Bruxelles: Bureau d'intervention et de restitution belge. Annual. 1994-
HD9015.B4B87

Rapport annuel / Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec. Québec: La Régie. Annual. 1990-1991-
HD9014.A1Q4

Report / SADC Environment and Land Management Sector Coordination Unit. Maseru, Lesotho: The Unit. Irregular. No. 28- 1993-
S622.R38

Shinrin kankyo shigen kagaku = Forest Resources and Environment. Tokyo-to: Tokyo Noko Daigaku Nogakubu Fuzoku Enshurin, Heisei 8. Annual. Dai 34-go (Mar. 1996)-
SD225.S55

Situation and Outlook Series. Newly Independent States and the Baltics / United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. Washington, DC: The Service. Annual. May 1997-
aHD1992.U55

Situation and Outlook Report. Potato Facts / United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. Washington, DC: The Service. Semiannual. PTS-1 (Apr. 1997)-
aHD9235.P82U6
Online version:
< http://www.mannlib.cornell.edu/
reports/erssor/specialty/pts-bb/ >

Sorten-versuchsergebnisse. Gumpenstein, Austria: Bundesversuchsanstalt für Alpenländische Landwirtschaft Gumpenstein. Heft. 139- 1989-
SB123.45.S66

Trade Policy Review. Switzerland. Geneva: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Biennial. 1991-
HF1573.T7

Tutkimuksia = Research Reports. Helsinki, Finland: Maatalouden taloudellinen tutkimuslaitos. Irregular. 217- 1997-
HD1995.5.A3T5

Umi to daichi: Saga Daigaku Kaihin Daichi Seibutsu Seisan Kenkyu Senta hokokusho = Marine & Highland Bioscience Center Report. Saga-ken Karatsu-shi: Saga Daigaku Kaihin Daichi Seibutsu Seisan Kenkyu Senta. Semiannual. Vol. 1 (1995)-
S604.3.U65

Update / California Agricultural Technology Institute. Fresno, CA: The Institute. Quarterly, < Fall 1993- > July 1988-
S494.5.I5U73

Utah Agricultural Statistics and Utah Department of Agriculture Annual Report. Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah Dept. of Agriculture. Annual. 1988-
HD1775.U8U8

Water in the Balance. Fort Collins, CO: Colorado State University. Colorado Water Resources Research Institute. Monthly. No. 1 (July 1994)-
TD224.C6W37

Weedwatcher / Southeast Asian Weed Information Center. Bogor, Indonesia: The Center. Annual. 1986-
SB613.A785W44

West Coast Vegetables: News and Information from the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia. South Perth, WA: The Department. Three no. a year. Vol. 1, no. 1 (July 1994)-
SB320.8.A8W47

Working Paper / Retail Food Industry Center. St. Paul, MN: Retail Food Industry Center, University of Minnesota, Dept. of Agricultural and Applied Economics. Irregular. 96-1-c1996-
HD9001.W67
Online version:
< http://rhet.agri.umn.edu/
trfic/publ.html >

NAL Gopher Ends

With an early morning E-mail to the NAL staff on Friday, December 19, 1997, Marty S. Sikes, a computer specialist in NAL's Information Systems Division, announced: "Please be advised that the NAL Gopher will be permanently shutdown at close of business today." This long-planned announcement implemented the much-anticipated day that the NAL home pages on the Internet's World Wide Web became the primary electronic information medium for the National Agricultural Library.

Like ALF (Agricultural Library Forum), NAL's electronic bulletin board, which ceased operation a little over a year previously, the NAL Gopher had served a broad spectrum of users and a diverse clientele around the world. Gradually, the NAL's home pages on the Internet, which were created in early 1995, began to duplicate and then supercede the information that had been available on the less technologically sophisticated and more costly and difficult to maintain bulletin board and gopher. ALF, which began operation in 1987, provided information for more than nine years until it ceased in fall 1996. The NAL Gopher, which was inaugurated in 1994, served as an information medium for the library for four years.

Currently, NAL's Internet web site covers all aspects of the National Agricultural Library's services and products. In addition there are linkages to other important sites in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and research and information sites throughout the U.S. at the land-grant universities and elsewhere. At this time, a library committee is redesigning the organization and appearance of NAL's home pages.

Another primary Internet information medium of the National Agricultural Library is AgNIC, the Agriculture Network Information Center. AgNIC was developed by NAL in collaboration with several land-grant university libraries and launched on the Internet in October 1995. Through AgNIC, NAL and the participating libraries (Cornell University, Iowa State University, the University of Arizona, and the University of Nebraska) provide access to quality information as well as distributed online reference services in selected subject areas.

—Joseph N. Swab

ALIN on the WWW

By the time this issue of *ALIN* is mailed in early 1998, it is anticipated that Ron Young, *ALIN*'s new Web Editor, will have added three more past issues to NAL's World Wide Web site:

Volume 22, Numbers 9-12, September-December 1996
Volume 23, Numbers 1-6, January-June 1997
Volume 23, Numbers 7-8, July-August 1997

This issue, Volume 23, Numbers 9-12, September-December 1997, will be put on the World Wide Web within a month of publication, and future issues will appear on the web within a short period following publication.

A new feature at the web-site will be called: *Advance ALIN.* This section will include articles and announcements that will appear in future printed issues of *ALIN.* These articles will be updated as necessary during the course of their remaining in the *Advance ALIN* pages. For example, an announcement of an event to be held at NAL may evolve into an account of the event itself before printing.

Issues of *ALIN* from Volume 21, 1995, previously included in NAL's web pages, will remain at the site, and as opportunity permits, we will add issues retrospectively.
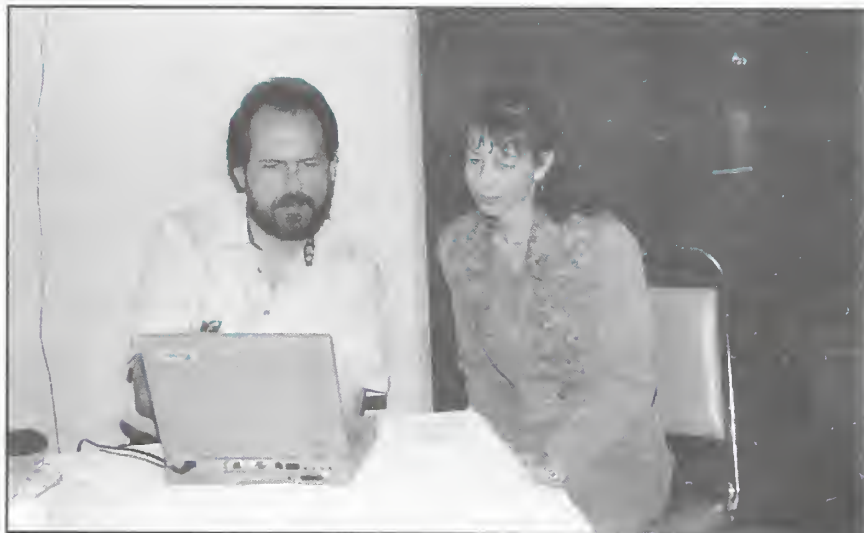
—Joseph N. Swab, ALIN Editor

Roundtable/USAIN/IAALD

photos: J. Swab

(Above) Participants of the U.S./Central and Eastern European Agricultural Library Roundtable are entertained by a Mariachi band at the El Charro restaurant in Tucson after their meetings. (Below) Michal Demes of the Slovak Republic and Barbara Hutchinson of Tucson, Arizona, consult the World Wide Web during the USAIN/IAALD Conference.

BULK RATE

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID

USDA

PERMIT NO. G95

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use, $300

If changes are required to your mailing address, enter them on the address label and return it or a copy of it to the above address. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list for this publication check here _____ and return this page or a copy of it to the above address.